

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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TERRY'S BALE WARNING

SAINTS legend Terry Paine has warned that Gareth Bale's proposed world-record transfer to Real Madrid won't be a good deal for all involved.

The St Mary's academy graduate is edging ever closer to joining the Spanish giants from Tottenham, with reported fees rising as high as the £100m mark.

But Paine believes Spurs should stand their ground and turn their back on the eye-watering sum of money on offer.

Writing in his exclusive Sports Pink column, Saints' honorary president said: "Is it really the

right move for all involved? The simple answer would be no.

"Transfers like these are almost never worth their weight in gold, to all parties involved.

"Sure, those with prior experience will tell you that sort of money is not to be shirked at, and that Bale may never reproduce the form shown last season.

"That is a gamble that Spurs should be willing to take, though, because this lad is a world-beater and, for a club like Spurs, a once in a generation player."

Read Terry Paine's full thoughts on the Gareth Bale transfer saga on page 17.



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Hampshire's amazing record

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CRICKET



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NON-LEAGUE



Latest from the local scene

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FOOTBALL



How the game can change

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REAL DEAL: can ex-Saint Gareth Bale become the next idol of Spanish giants Madrid?

WESSEX LEAGUE PREVIEW: PAGES 4-13

Cherries/Pompey Spotlight



Cardiff win

KIM Bo-kyung scored the only goal of the game as Cardiff continued their preparations ahead of their first Barclays Premier League season with a win at home to Chievo.

Malky Mackay named a strong side for the visit of the Serie A outfit to the Cardiff City Stadium, with new club-record signing Steven Caulker making his first appearance for the club as a second-half substitute.

Kim's effort, which came just before the hour-mark, was the South Korea international's third goal of pre-season and proved to be enough to seal the win for the hosts.

The Bluebirds, who will face Athletic Bilbao next weekend in their final pre-season clash, start life back in the top flight when they travel to West Ham on the opening day of the new campaign.

Demsey exit

TOTTENHAM have confirmed that forward Clint Dempsey is returning to Major League Soccer after just one season at White Hart Lane.

The United States captain joined Spurs from fellow Barclays Premier League side Fulham last summer for around £6million, scoring 12 goals in 43 appearances for the north London club.

Dempsey, 30, first made a name for himself playing for the New England Revolution before joining Fulham, and is widely expected to join the Seattle Sounders, who currently sit seventh in the MLS Western Conference.

Clarets upbeat

BURNLEY boss Sean Dyche insists there is life after Charlie Austin as his side impressed in a 1-1 draw on the opening day of the Sky Bet Championship season against local rivals Bolton.

Austin, who scored 28 goals in 40 appearances for the Clarets last season, left for QPR this week but Danny Ings' deflected effort opened the scoring at Turf Moor.

Darren Pratley's fine finish grabbed a point for Bolton but it was the Clarets who looked the more likely winners in the early kick-off.



FALSE DAWN: Portsmouth's Patrick Agyemang scores the first goal of the game during the Sky Bet League Two match at Fratton Park – but Oxford United hit back to win 4-1.

Lewis a two-goal hero

LEWIS Grabban's finely-taken double helped Cherries mark their return to the Championship with a stirring 2-1 victory over Charlton.

Grabban, pictured, paved the way for the Dean Court win when he headed home the opener after 26 minutes, the striker's first goal since February.

And although Yann Kermorgant levelled for the Addicks just after half-time, Grabban's stunning second deservedly won the day for Cherries.

It was Cherries' first home league victory over the south Londoners in 40 years, with Charlton finishing with 10 men following the dismissal of Bradley Pritchard.

Sordell was quickly in the thick of the action, heading a Mark Gower corner over the crossbar before Callum Harriott blazed well wide as the hosts started brightly.

Cherries responded when Coulibaly, signed last month from Grasshoppers, poked a right-foot effort narrowly wide of the upright.

Despite forcing a flurry of corners early on, Cherries were unable to fashion any chances as the Addicks stood firm at the back.

Chances were at a premium dur-



ing the opening skirmishes with Charlton striker Yann Kermorgant side-footing wide from distance after 20 minutes.

However, Cherries broke the deadlock after 26 minutes when Grabban planted a header past the

flat-footed Hamer after being picked out by Harry Arter's precision cross.

It was Grabban's first goal since he netted in a 2-0 home win over Portsmouth in February, the 25-year-old Londoner ending a run of 14 games without scoring. Cherries went close to doubling their lead just two minutes later when Wes Thomas nipped in front of Hamer to meet Pugh's cross, only to prod his shot wide.

Hamer gathered Arter's speculative 30-yarder before Grabban, buoyed by his goal, tried his luck with a curling effort, the Charlton goalkeeper saving with relative ease.

Grabban forced Hamer into another save after being teed up by Charlie Daniels, the stopper scurrying across his line and diving to his left to smother.

Thomas, who was full of running during the first half, almost capped his hard-working display with a goal, the striker's venomous 20-yard drive dipping over the crossbar.

Charlton levelled three minutes after the restart when Kermorgant rifled an unstoppable volley past Ryan Allsop, the targetman latching on to a cross from the left by

Cherries old boy Rhoys Wiggins.

Bradley Pritchard's glancing header sailed over the crossbar before Coulibaly made way for Ryan Fraser after taking a knock during a block tackle with Pritchard.

Fraser could have made a name for himself just minutes after coming on but the Scotsman was unable to connect properly at the far post after a Pugh cross had fallen invitingly for him.

However, Fraser got everything behind a fiercely-struck 20-yard drive, with Hamer alert at his near post to snaffle the teenager's effort.

The visiting goalkeeper was powerless to prevent Grabban restoring Cherries' lead, the striker plundering his second with a stunning strike from around 25 yards after 66 minutes.

Grabban, who hit 13 goals for Cherries last season, picked his spot and despatched a thunderous right-foot shot past the despairing dive of Hamer.

Daniels went close to making it 3-1 when his free-kick flashed past the upright.

Cherries: Allsop, Francis, Ward, Cook, Daniels, Coulibaly (Fraser, 55), Arter, MacDonald, Pugh, Grabban (Pitman, 90), Thomas (Surman, 85). Unused subs: Elphick, Hughes, O'Kane, Harte, Flahavan (g/k).

Daily Echo

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New look City earn point

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

WINCHESTER CITY 0 MONEYFIELDS 0

WINCHESTER CITY were unable to break down a streetwise Moneyfields side as they marked their return to the Sydenhams Premier Division with a 0-0 home draw in front of a 170 crowd.

City's new look side suffered an early blow when Lloyd Webber – returning hero of the 2004 FA Vase-winning side – was forced off with a broken wrist.

Ex Downton defender Matt Scott replaced him with just over five minutes gone.

That stoppage was followed by another on ten minutes when, after a lecture from the referee following consultation with his linesman, Winchester's Karl Yelland was booked for some bumping and barging in the box with Money's dangerman Steve Hutchings.

It was sub Scott who got the first shot away after controlling skipper Chris Mason's free-kick and then Russell Cook slid the ball past on-rushing keeper Dave Hook and wide.

It then needed a strong hand by Hook's opposite number Ross Casey to tip over Connor-Bailey's thumping free kick after Adam Tomasso had fouled Hutchings.

Ex-Eastleigh front man Chris Flood showed glimpses of his ability but on one occasion his final ball let him down and then his neat lay-off was wasted by Russell Cook who could only shoot harmlessly across the goal face.

STALEMATE: Action from the scoreless draw.



Flood then showed busy feet before drilling a low shot goalwards, but it was easy for Hook to gather.

Winchester went close to opening the score on the stroke of half-time when sub Scott Liam met Green's free-kick with a firm, downward header. Hook got it off the line with his feet and the ball returned to Scott who lashed the rebound well over.

Half-time:

Winchester City 0
Moneyfields 0

Money's Dave Birmingham drove an ambitious 40-yard free-kick wide at the start of the second-half after Tomasso had been cautioned for a foul.

Apart from a dangerous low cross by Dan Thompson, Winchester created little of note in the opening 15 minutes of the second-half, prompting manager Graham Kemp to call his ex-Christchurch sharpshooter Ben Osborne off the bench to replace Tom Price.

Then five minutes later Scott Sanderson went on for City's Liam Green.

Moneyfields were nothing if not competitive and Stuart Green was lucky to escape with just a booking for a two-footed lunge on Masong, who thankfully walked away unscathed.

A spell of pressure followed from the Portsmouth visitors, started by Tomasso's loose clearance.

Stuart Green's bobbling low shot eventually reached the grateful arms of Casey who then had to be on his guard to collect Bailey's firm strike.

Winchester broke swiftly to the other end but, having outpaced Jack Lee and cut in from the left, Cook was foiled by Hook at his near post.

Hutchings then tested ex-Totton youngster Casey with a powerful shot on the turn before Flood's inspired shot was turned over by Hook at the other end as the game opened up.

Casey again stood up to Hutchings before City sub Scott Sanderson was fouled inside the 'D' and Flood's free-kick crashed off the defensive wall.

Danny King defended solidly to snuff out Stuart Green's threat as he chased Hutchings' ball over the top.

But Money's were gaining momentum and there were sighs of relief three minutes from time when Hutchings' free-kick from the corner of the area slithered out of Casey's grasp and was scrambled behind for a corner.

Wigan kick off in style

FA Cup final hero Ben Watson was on the mark as Wigan got their bid for an immediate return to the Premier League off to an impressive start today with a 4-0 Championship mauling of 10-man Barnsley at Oakwell.

Watson, who was the Wembley match-winner against Manchester City in May, put Wigan 1-0 up with a fine first-half finish and three more goals after the break sealed a comprehensive victory for new manager Owen Coyle and his men.

Summer signing Grant Holt netted 10 minutes after the interval to make it 2-0 before Barnsley lost Dale Jennings to a 66th-minute sending off, and Wigan then added further goals in the last 10 minutes through Leon Barnett and Shaun Maloney.

The two other sides relegated from the top flight last season also enjoyed winning starts to life in the Sky Bet Championship, with QPR and Reading both claiming 2-1 home victories.

QPR, considered favourites for promotion, fell behind against

Sheffield

Wednesday when

Atdhe Nuhui netted in the 19th

minute but Harry

Redknapp's men

bounced back to

claim the spoils

with two goals in

three minutes just

before half-time

through Nedum

Onuoha and

Andrew Johnson

Reading also

needed to come

from behind to

beat Ipswich at

the Madejski

Stadium, Adam Le

Fondre (45) and

Danny Guthrie (75)

cancelling out a

16th-minute open-

er from former

Royals midfielder

Jay Tabb.

It was a memorable day for promoted Yeovil who, playing at this level for their first time in their history, claimed a 1-0 win at Millwall thanks to Ed Upson's late strike.

Bournemouth, who came up from League On League One champions Doncaster could not complete the set for the division newcomers as they lost 3-1 at home to Blackpool.

Doncaster had looked to have salvaged a point when skipper Rob Jones (60) levelled up Steven Davies' 17th-minute opener for Blackpool, but two goals in the last two minutes from Gary MacKenzie and Tom Ince earned the visitors the spoils.

Last season's losing Championship play-off finalists Watford began the new campaign with a narrow 1-0 victory, Troy Deeney's 11-minute strike proving the difference against Birmingham, while a 52nd-minute goal from Henri Lansbury earned Nottingham Forest a 1-0 home win over Huddersfield.

New signing Luke Murphy made an immediate impact for Leeds as he netted a last-gasp winner to earn his side a 2-1 comeback victory over Brighton. The Seagulls went ahead early on through Jose Ulloa but Ross McCormack drew Leeds level before 23-year-old Murphy netted a 94th-minute clincher.

Leicester also came from behind to beat Middlesbrough 2-1 in an entertaining game at the Riverside. Lukas Jutkiewicz put Boro ahead in the first half but Leicester struck back with two goals in seven minutes midway through the second half from Danny Drinkwater and Jamie Vardy.

Meanwhile, Burnley and Bolton shared a 1-1 draw in the day's early kick-off at Turf Moor, Darren Pratley's sweet first-half strike earning the visitors a point after Danny Ings' deflected effort off David Wheeler had put the Clarets ahead.



BEN WATSON



ON TARGET: Jai Reason scores for Eastleigh against Salisbury. But City won the pre-season friendly 2-1.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

WAGERS OF THE WEEK

QPR are 6/1 favourites to bounce back from the disappointment of last season's Premier League relegation by claiming the Championship title this term – but sponsors Sky Bet report more support for Bolton and Watford to prevail.

Harry Redknapp failed to keep the Hoops up after taking over from Mark Hughes in November but bookmakers have taken note of his past history of success in this division from when leading Portsmouth to top spot in 2003.

Reading only lasted one year in the top flight but obliged at this level the season before and in 2006, so the Royals look a solid bet to be thereabouts at 8/1, especially as manager Nigel Adkins took former club Southampton up in 2012.

However, Bolton finished strongly to end up just outside the play-offs last term, winning nine games out of 12 before two late draws saw them slip to seventh place, and the Trotters have been well backed at 9/1 to take the title this term.

Nottingham Forest fans will be hoping Billy Davies can bring some stability back to the City Ground and they are 11/1 for top spot, with Watford proving popular at the same price to improve on third place last term and FA Cup winners Wigan 12/1 to prove a cut above this level.

Those wanting to hedge their bets a little can have 15/8 for QPR to gain promotion, either by securing a top-two finish or via



GOAL ACE: Charlie Austin (left) celebrates a Burnley goal with Jay Rodriguez.

the play-offs, with Reading and Bolton both 3/1 to go up, while Watford are 10/3 here, Forest 7/2 and Wigan 9/2.

"The three relegated Premier League clubs generally always feature at the head of the Championship betting but, to be honest, this year they have been pretty friendless amongst punters," said Sky Bet spokesman Dale Tempest.

"The significant movers in the promotion markets have been Bolton and Watford. The Hornets were unlucky not to go up last year and have continued to invest in the squad whilst punters believe a Dougie Freedman-inspired Bolton can finally return to the top flight."

Blackburn striker Jordan Rhodes is generally 8/1 favourite to be the division's top goalscorer after finishing just one behind Glenn Murray of Crystal Palace last term, with third-placed Charlie Austin cut to 10/1 following his switch from Burnley to QPR.

Adam Le Fondre of Reading is a stand-out 14/1 with Ladbrokes for Golden Boot glory, Leicester's Chris Wood is widely available at the same price, with Brighton's Jose Leonardo Ulloa 16/1 at Coral and Grant Holt on that mark after moving from Norwich to Wigan.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

IS TITLE REPEAT



CHAMPIONS Blackfield & Langley open their defence of the Sydenham's Premier Division title at home to runners-up Alresford Town on Tuesday.

But, surprisingly, no one is tipping the Watersiders to successfully defend their Wessex crown.

Ahead of this weekend's big kick-off, The Sports Pink asked all 22 top-flight clubs for their title tips.

And it was Dave Diaper's Sholing – fresh down from the Southern One South & West – who emerged as overwhelming favourites.

A whopping 19 managers, chairmen and directors of football are backing the Boatmen to succeed.

Two others plumped for Winchester City, who have themselves returned from the Southern League ranks and been totally rebuilt by former Christchurch manager Graham Kemp and director of football Dave Malone.

The other vote went to last season's surprise package Alresford Town, who finished second in the league and pulled off a sparkling treble in the Hampshire FA Senior, Sydenham's League and North Hants Senior Cups.

While the vast majority of clubs believe champions Blackfield will figure in the top-three frame, not one is backing Glenn Burnett's Watersiders to repeat their title-winning feat.

Not that that should unduly worry the boys from Gang Warily.

This time last year only wily Bournemouth Poppies' boss Kenny Vaughan successfully forecast they would lift the

2012/13 trophy!

Reporters Wendy Gee and Peter Howard have been chatting to clubs about their title tips and ambitions for the new campaign –

**SIMON BROWNE
(HAMWORTHY UNITED
MANAGER)**

It's going to be a very interest-

ing season.

There are a lot of big budgets – and even bigger egos – and sparks could fly this year.

It's got to be Sholing and Winchester for the title, but there's also Blackfield & Langley, Bemerton and Portchester who are all very strong.

There are so many clubs expecting to do well and not all of them can.

But if I had to put money on it, it would have to be Sholing.

I will be watching with great interest and, hopefully, Hamworthy can get well involved in it.

Alresford are among the top sides, along with Moneyfields, and those two will be up there with the best of them.

Bemerton Heath have the pedigree, they are always top quality

MORE WESSEX LEAGUE NEWS IN MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

BEYOND B&L?



CHAMPS: Blackfield and Langley celebrate last season's title triumph.

and should be top-five no problem."

For us this season is about kicking on from the last campaign.

We've got a settled squad, which we've added quality to, and it's all about the team ethic for me.

I want my players to give 100 per cent every week.

If they work their socks off we'll be able to get the results we want.

Title tips: Sholing

COLIN LANE (FAWLEY AFC MANAGER)

It's got to be Sholing for the title – and I should imagine everyone's saying the same.

They've been playing in the Southern League for last four seasons and finished seventh last year and they've kept nearly everyone and signed more. Not bad for a club who came down for

financial reasons!

I know one or two managers are not happy with them coming back into the Wessex League, but I've got no problem with it. At the end of the day, it makes the league stronger

and it doesn't bother me one bit.

I don't think Sholing will run away with the league, but I'd imagine they'd be about 12 points clear and I'd take Moneyfields as the team to push them.

My shock team to 'do an Alresford' this season would be Portchester. I can definitely see them pushing into the top seven or eight.

Where Fawley will finish, I don't know. As long as there's an improvement on last year.

We've lost three players – Lewis Ross (AFC Totton), Steve Hall (Alresford) and Aaron Blaxall (Fleet Town) and got three more out injured – Elliott Earl, Tom Hardiman and Tom Edwards.

But I fought tooth and nail to keep our goalkeeper Joe Prodomo and I still feel we've got stronger depth to the squad than we had last year.

Title tips: Sholing

GLENN BURNETT (BLACKFIELD & LANGLEY MANAGER)

I'll go for Sholing to win the league.

They struggled for a bit (in the Southern One South & West) last season, but you can't go 17 games unbeaten in the league above and climb from the bottom and nearly make the play-offs without having a seriously good chance of winning the Wessex League – and deservedly so.

Cont on page 6



GLENN BURNETT

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I know what we are trying to build and grow, so why would you swap Liverpool to go to Arsenal?" - **Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers on the possibility of selling striker Luis Suarez to Barclays Premier League rivals Arsenal.**

"I really hope they will look for the truth and find it, which is only one. I am destroyed and exhausted" - **Serbian tennis player Viktor Troicki on being banned for 18 months for failing to give a blood sample at the Monte Carlo Masters.**

"I'm embarrassed more than anything else. It's difficult to say too much to be honest" - **Hibernian manager Pat Fenlon on his side's 7-0 loss to Malmo in the Europa League for a 9-0 aggregate defeat.**

"I was made to inspire people and to run. I know I am clean. So I'm just going to continue running, using my talent and trying to improve the sport and help the sport" -

Usain Bolt, RIGHT, speaks out following the recent failed drug tests of fellow sprinters Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay.



"I've been looking to a different stimulus: there are no tactics involved, I am just going to get in and have a blast" - **Fran Halsall on her strategy ahead of the World Swimming Championships.**

"It's good news in one way if it's true," McCall said. "It's bad news because I had done an hour's edit on him and highlighted him as the danger man who was going to rip us apart" - **Motherwell manager Stuart McCall reflects on the news that Europa League opponents Kuban Krasnodar had lost midfielder Aras Ozbiliz to Spartak Moscow in a big-money move.**

"There are no advantages here. If you cut Usain Bolt's leg off, he's not going to go 9.5. I guarantee you" - **American single-amputee Richard Browne on the rapidly improving times being set by Paralympic sprinters.**

"Ever since the Olympics I have had a massive struggle with that dive. It's the one I had the re-dive on (due to cameras' flashes) and ever since then I've had this thing about it where I panic. It's literally one of the dives I have to break down and start again really. I'll probably have to learn it from scratch and take it back down to basics because it's one of those dives that when I get up there I can't focus on the dive properly and I'm struggling to visualise it" - **diver Tom Daley acknowledges problems executing his back two and a half somersault with two and a half twists off the 10-metre platform at the World Championships in Barcelona.**

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Non-league News

Favourites hold no fears for Barker

ROMSEY Town boss Danny Barker is aiming to "attack every game" ahead of the new Sydenhams Wessex Premier Division season, writes **PETER HOWARD**.

The Bypass Ground side head to title favourites Sholing in their first league fixture on Tuesday and Barker is not daunted by the opposition's quality.

A whopping 19 out of 22 clubs polled by the *Sports Pink* are tipping Dave Diaper's Boatmen as title favourites, but Romsey refuse to be overawed.

"We're going to Sholing to win," vowed Barker. "I respect their qualities and I know the odds are stacked against us, but I'm looking forward to it and it's going to be a good game of football."

"They obviously have the bonus of unity and have lots of dangerous players and, of course, they're going to be well organised."

"If we lose and put in a decent performance then I'll be happy, but I'm going there to win," he pledged. "We've got a young side that have quality, so we're in a good way."

Romsey struggled in the Sydenhams Premier last season and finished rock bottom. They were only saved after New Milton were deducted points and Hayling Island were relegated for ground grading reasons.

But Barker has worked non-stop to transform his team in the closed season and is in a confident mood.

"I'm excited. We've put a lot of work in, we've not stopped since the end of last season," he said. "I'm quietly confident and I think we've got a great competitive spirit about us."

"The benchmark for this season has to be mid-table. Our mentality has got to be to attack every game and that's how we will approach it. We've got quality and they've all settled really well and I'm surprised they've gelled so quickly."

Barker has added several players to his side, including the recent signings of Ryan Lambert and Jack McCarthy, pictured above, from Sholing, ex-Eastleigh man Josh Green, Stu McAlpine, Geoff Dunn and Jamie Bulpitt.

"We've got a young team so it's going to be a very positive season for us overall I feel," he said.



From page 5

They've got a good, close-knit group of players and they've kept them all together and made a couple of nice summer signings.

Nothing changes much at Sholing from year to year and they're very consistent.

Winchester City must be taken seriously, you've got to respect Alresford for what they did last year – and you can never rule out Bemerton either.

I've got a feeling AFC Portchester will be the surprise package. They've got big plans and a good fan base too. I don't think Portchester will win it, but they'll be up there.

Things have changed for us a bit at Blackfield since we won the league last season.

The budget's been trimmed, we've got a smaller squad and no reserve team.

It only needs two working and two on holiday and suddenly we're going to Bemerton on a Monday night with 13 people.

We'll be up there challenging – I don't see why not with the players we've got here – but there are teams who could stand in our way.

There's a few who've gone out and strengthened and they've got the resources to do it.

Title tips: Sholing.

DANNY BOWERS (FOLLAND SPORTS MANAGER)

Graham Kemp deserves the opportunity to work with a budget at Winchester City after doing so well over the years on limited resources at Christchurch.

I don't care if someone's got a £100,000 budget, they've still got to use it wisely and make it work.

But, for me, there's only one team to beat this season – and that's Sholing.

They've kept all their players who finished just outside the play-offs in the Southern League last season and, in Lee Wort, they've got a striker who could break every Wessex record ever made if he wants to.

They've signed Ashley Jarvis from us who, for me, was the best striker in the Wessex League last year – and then there's James Taylor....

Never mind the Wessex, Dave Diaper has got himself a side at Sholing who would do well in the Southern League.

They're together as a group and the key thing for clubs like Sholing, Blackfield and Alresford is that they've already got a settled side.

We, on the other hand, have got about seven new players to bed in early doors and it's the same for Kempy with all the new signings at Winchester.

Because of the economic climate, we've got to start looking at youngsters at Follands and we're going to have a really youthful side, which I'm excited about.

I'm working with three fantastic coaches in Tim Middleton, Dave Lewis and Darren Burdell.

It's going to be a real

Sholing have the quality in their front line



KEY MEN: Sholing's Lee Wort and, left, Ashley Jarvis.

strong league this year – Sholing, Blackfield, Winchester and Alresford alone will see to that.

But we're

setting our targets high and we think we can ruffle a few feathers and finish in the top four. If not, that's down to me.

Title tips: Sholing

DANNY ROBINSON

(ALRESFORD TOWN CO-MANAGER)

We'd love to go one better than we did last year (as runners-up) but it's going to be so much harder this time round with Sholing, Winchester and Blackfield.

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SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW



BOSS: Alresford Town's Danny Robinson.

We're probably not going to emulate what we did last season. All we want to do is try and compete and be in there with the big boys.

Blackfield have kept nearly all their players and it'll be interesting to see what Graham Kemp does with a budget at Winchester. Being nosy, I had a look at Winchester

when they played Stockbridge in a friendly and even the lads on the bench were very good players.

Bemerton have strengthened with Aaron Cook, Sammy Carter and George Way and they'll have Joe Sanger with them from the start this time.

But my tip has to be Sholing.

They've kept hold of the majority of their

Southern League players and they've got Lee Wort to bang in the goals.

It would be silly to look elsewhere.

But, then again, we beat them last year and so did Blackfield and I think they got a real surprise when they came to us (in the Hampshire Senior Cup).

They weren't disrespectful, but they must have had it in their heads that we were a Wessex club.

Sholing won't get it all their own way this season and I'm sure (manager) Dave Diaper is fully aware of that.

It's good for Wessex and local football that two of the bigger sides, Sholing and Winchester, are back in the league.

Testing ourselves against Dave Diaper on a regular basis is something myself and Tim (co-boss Tim Cole) will relish.

Title tips: Sholing

GRAHAM KEMP (WINCHESTER CITY MANAGER)

Sholing will be too strong for a lot of the other teams.

They're a Southern League side playing in the Wessex League and I can't see too many clubs upsetting them.

Obviously we've got new players at Winchester this year, but this club played higher last season and they weren't really a Southern League side like Sholing because they finished bottom.

Teams like Alresford, Bemerton and ourselves should be up there and I also fancy the Pompey sides - Moneyfields, Portchester and Fareham - will be strong on the back of Gosport going into the Conference South.

In that area there's only Wessex or Conference South football with nothing in between.

Over the last few years Bournemouth area teams like Poole and Wimborne have been strong, but some of the better Wessex players are now in the Southern League and the balance of power has changed.

Wimborne have been particularly good at tapping into the better Wessex players, signing lads like Tom Jeffes, Adam Costello, Jon Blake, Shaun Bryan and Sam Griffin.

For us, a lot depends on how we start.

Gelling a new team will be tough.

If we can start challenging straight away we should be fine.

Cont on page 8

Non-league News

Shots sale

THE sale of Skrill Premier club Aldershot Town has been completed with a consortium led by former chairman Shahid Azeem becoming the new owners. Following relegation from the Football League last season, the north Hampshire club will kick off 2013/14 in the Skrill Conference Premier.

Azeem and former board members John Leppard, Tony Knights and Russ Howell, who are also part of the new consortium, have thanked all those who helped save the club - including Rushmoor Borough Council for its support and flexibility during lease negotiations.

Council leader Peter Moyle said: "I'm pleased that the new consortium taking on Aldershot Town FC has been able to create a football-led sustainable future for the club."

"The club is at the heart of Aldershot's community and we were determined to play our part by offering support and signing a new lease agreement."

The Shots have also confirmed a two-year agreement with Premier League giants Chelsea, whereby a significant number of Blues' academy and reserve matches will be played at the Recreation Ground.

Azeem confirmed: "Local football supporters will be able to visit our ground for a very small amount of money and see Premier League players along with Chelsea's potential stars of the future."

Loan deal

WYCOMBE Wanderers midfielder Jesse Kewley-Graham has joined Skrill Conference South club Havant & Waterlooville on loan until January 5.

The 20-year-old spent time at Westleigh Park last season, making nine appearances, and came up against the Hawks during pre-season when the Chairboys won 1-0.

Kewley-Graham, who signed a new one-year deal with Wycombe in June, also featured nine times for the League Two club last term.

The Havant deal includes a recall clause which becomes active after 28 days.

Lee Bradbury's Hawks won their midweek friendly 5-2 at Bognor Regis Town.

The Rocks were the better side in the opening 45 minutes, but some deadly poaching by Ollie Palmer put Havant ahead.

Kewley-Graham's quick thinking set up Christian Nanetti to make it 2-1 to the Hawks with his first touch and further goals followed from Sahr Kabba, Palmer and ex-Saint Pedro 'Pele' Monteiro. Bognor replied through Harvey Whyte and Ollie Pearce.

Non-league News

Sills feels wanted at Bashley

CALOR Southern Premier outfit Bashley have pulled off a major coup by signing in-demand striker Tim Sills.

And the highly experienced former Football League and Conference National hitman, pictured below, has revealed that being made to feel wanted was the biggest factor in making Bashley Road his latest port of call.

The 33-year-old Romsey-born frontrunner – formerly of Basingstoke, Aldershot, Hereford and Torquay United – made his debut in last Saturday's 2-1 friendly win over Hampton & Richmond Borough.

The New Forest outfit had battled it out with Conference South club

Dorchester Town for Sills' services, while Southern Premier rivals Poole Town and Weymouth had previously declared their

interest.

Sills, though, admitted joint Bash boss Stewart Kearn's influence had proved pivotal in his decision.

The towering targetman, who is relocating to Dorset to take a teaching job in Poole, said: "Stewart spoke about the club really well and I was impressed because he worked very hard to get me down here.

"It is nice to be courted and he did it with real enthusiasm.

"Bashley is a nice, friendly club and I am looking forward to being part of the project here."

Joining Dorchester would have kept Sills in the Conference South after spending the last two seasons back at Basingstoke, where he first made his name.

But Sills said: "You want to be as ambitious as possible and play as high as you can, but I'm not sure how ambitious Dorchester will be this year.

"They have had their budget slashed and that came across in the conversations I had with their manager Phil Simkin.

"Once I had looked at my options, Bashley was the one where I felt most wanted and that made me keen to sign."

Sills scored at Wembley to help Torquay to promotion to the Football League in 2009 and a year later was part of Stevenage Borough's Conference championship-winning side.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

From page 7

But if we get left behind, it'll be difficult to put a 15-match unbeaten run together to try and claw it back.

We've got a tough start with Moneyfields first up in the league (today) and Alresford in the FA Cup. We need to hit the ground running.

Title tips: Sholing

DANNY BARKER (ROMSEY TOWN MANAGER)

It's going to go down to the wire this year, maybe even to the last game, but I take Sholing to nick it just ahead of Winchester City, with Blackfield coming strongly into third.

It's Sholing for me because of the consistency they've had over the years, the team spirit they've always had and the way they finished last season in the Southern League.

Their experience and firepower, and more so the fact they've been together a number of years, will give them the edge, whereas Winchester are a new group.

I think Blackfield will also be a massive side and, as a dark horse, I'd say Portchester.

As for Romsey, if you split the league into three sections, we want to be in the middle one.

We won't win the league – that's not being negative, it's being realistic. But let's not just set our sights on survival. Let's try and raise the bar and set challenges for ourselves.

I'd like to think we've got enough here for a good mid-table finish that we can build on the season after.

Bearing in mind where we finished last year (second bottom), a mid-table spot would mean we've come a long way.

Anything more would be a massive bonus and anything less would be a bit disappointing with what we've got.

Myself and the management team couldn't have done more this summer. Our preparation has been spot on. But we can take nothing for granted.

This division is so hard that



PARTY TIME: Alresford celebrate last season's Wessex Cup win and, above left, Romsey boss Danny Barker.

nothing's guaranteed.

Title tips: Sholing

DAVE DIAPER (SHOLING MANAGER)

I was impressed with Alresford last year.

We drew with them after 90 minutes in the Hampshire Senior Cup semi-final, but they ended up beating us and I liked their togetherness.

I don't want to be disrespectful to the other clubs by choosing one, but I'd have to put Alresford down as title

LIKES SUCCESS:
David Malone.

contenders provided they don't chop and change too much.

They've signed a few players and that can be when the problems come. If it ain't broke, don't mend it.

Dave Malone likes success so you can't rule out Winchester City and then there's Blackfield and Bemerton – plus Downton who got off to a great start last season. And you can't overlook Moneyfields or Portchester either.

But I can only really talk about the teams we played last year and, for me, Alresford stood out. They were well organised, they played as a team and their togetherness was apparent.

This is going to be a tough season for us (coming down into the

Wessex League). It's going to be all about mental strength and we've got to do our talking through the way we play.

The onus will be on me to lead by example and not allow myself to react to referees' decisions.

Refs at this level are learning the game whereas we've got lads who've played higher.

It's the same with the pitches. Ours will be the best in the league without a doubt and that could sometimes go against us when teams visit us and are able to get the ball down and play.

But I don't want our players moaning about other pitches. To me, that's just excuses.

We've got to be as professional as we can.

EMAIL THE SPORTSDESK: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

IMPRESS...



RIGHT: Ex- Poole and Wimborne ace Scott Joyce has joined Brockenhurst.



Title tips: Alresford Town.

PAT McMANUS (BROCKENHURST MANAGER)

You can't look too far beyond Sholing to win the league – followed, I would imagine, by Blackfield & Langley and Winchester City.

Sholing are effectively a Southern League side operating in the Wessex Premier.

They haven't lost any of the players who have performed so well season on season in the Southern League.

Some say Sholing coming down will have an adverse effect on the league, but I'm thinking positively

and look forward to playing them. You can judge where you are when you come up against a team like that.

As for Brockenhurst, we're not going to shout from the rooftops what we think we can achieve. We'll just get our heads down and make sure we're competitive against every team we meet.

We've just come back up to the Premier Division and the committee are not expecting too much too soon. I'm sure they'd be happy to consolidate in season one.

(Former team boss) John Pyatt has got plans behind the scenes that he wants to develop and he's brought me in to concentrate on the football.

Pre-season's gone very well and

I've inherited a good bunch of lads and added to them.

We've re-signed the bulk of last season's squad – minus Darren Ritchie (now Lymington Town) and James Vinton (now Folland Sports) who've gone back to their old clubs.

Signing ex-Wimborne and Poole striker Scott Joyce is a major coup for us. He's got a great pedigree and you can see from the way he operates in games why he scores so many goals.

All the signs are good that we'll more than hold our own.

Title tips: Sholing

WE NEED TO BE PROFESSIONAL: Sholing boss Dave Diaper.

STUART DOLING (LYMINGTON TOWN MANAGER)

I imagine everyone's thinking either Sholing or Winchester to win it and I'd go for Sholing because they've played at a higher level and kept more or less the same squad.

I don't think there's a lot to choose between the two, but it all depends how quickly Winchester can gel. The fact Sholing are used to playing together will help them big time.

It's going to be a very strong league this year and, like I said to our lads, Sholing, Winchester, Blackfield and Alresford are the games you want to be involved in. You want to play against the best you can.

When I was playing Wessex football I loved going to Havant, etc. The bigger the stage, the better it is.

Mentally, the top teams have got to be up for it. No disrespect, but they've still got to come to the likes of ourselves, Fawley and Hamworthy on a wet January night and get a result. Whoever finishes top will deserve it.

I've got Matthew Dunford in to help me at Lymington. I wouldn't call him my assistant because we're doing it together. He's got contacts and so have I and I'm pleased with the squad we've put together.

We've signed on some good players, like James Davies, Shane Sims and Sam Floyd, and Darren Ritchie's back from Brockenhurst.

Cont on page 10

Non-league News

Town down the Hawks

FLEDGLING Sydenham One club Andover Town won their final warm-up game 3-2 against Havant & Waterlooville Academy.

Town who were due to play their League Cup opener away at New Milton Town today – their first ever competitive match – again gave 22 players a run-out.

And the young Hawks had no answer to the sheer power of ex-

Winchester striker



Michael Dixon, pictured left, who squared for Cameron Hough to side-foot in Town's 15th-minute opener.

Three minutes later Hough combined with young midfielder Matt Grey for Dixon to hammer home a second and the muscular frontman thrashed in third off the underside of the bar shortly before manager Neil Benson made wholesale changes on the hour.

By then Stan Edwards had pulled a goal back for Havant and Cass Bartlett-Scott drove home an unstoppable 25-yarder on 65 minutes to further trim the deficit.

Town finished strongly, however, with Tom Richards, Tyler Betteridge, Tom Riddell and Claudio Herbert all going close.

Andover had done all the damage in the first half last Saturday as they overcame Oxford City Nomads 3-0.

Two goals from Riddell and one from Richards gave them a comfortable interval lead which they held until the end.

Benson, though, was less impressed with their second-half showing.

"I made clear the performance levels required to claim a shirt for the New Milton game and it was nowhere near at times," he said.

Centre-back Lloyd Foot made his debut and the former Saints youngster, who will combine playing for Town with coaching the Academy, was described by Benson as "a class act."

Benson added: "Lloyd will need a month to get truly match fit, but he will be good to watch."

Another player Benson singled out was Tom Riddell, whose career he has monitored for 12 years since he was 11 years old. He described him as "very bright and possessing great movement."

CALL THE SPORTSDESK: 023 8042 4515

Non-league News

QK rocked by Robins

STOCKBRIDGE wound up pre-season with a 3-2 win at Hampshire Premier League outfit QK Southampton on Wednesday.

Victory, though, was far more comfortable than the scoreline suggests for the Sydenhams One side.

With Josh Harfield causing havoc down the left, the Robins fashioned a dozen first-half scoring chances with Darryl Phillips, Dean Higgins, Liam Hall, Matt Freemantle and Danny Sillence all going close.

Ironically, having gone 45 minutes without scoring, it took less than two from the restart before Stuart Findlay chested down a pass and volleyed a spectacular opener past George Samson in the QK goal.

It was his last action as managers Terry Chapman and James Banks made changes with today's League Cup opener at home to Lymington Town in mind.

Dean Higgins, pictured below, lobbed Stockbridge's second into an empty net from 25 yards and, with 15 minutes to go, Higgins found Phillips who drove home the third.



QK were not finished, however, with Nathan Grey bursting clear to make it 3-1 before forcing an own goal off Hall.

Stockbridge had been beaten 4-2 at home by an Eastleigh XI last Saturday.

The Robins went close to opening the scoring when Findlay hit the bar, but their fate was sealed when the Spitfires netted three in five minutes before the break.

Martin Rogers made it 3-1 and, after Eastleigh had struck again, Findlay headed home three minutes from time.

DREW Smith Group Southampton Saturday League side Burridge AFC are looking for players in all positions and especially a goalkeeper.

The team, who ply in Senior 1, also require an assistant manager.

For full details call team manager Colin Plumhoff on 07949066946.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

From page 9

I'm trying to bring back the passing, attacking football that I was brought up on.

With limited resources, we're trying to make the club more professional and we're looking to build something, on and off the pitch, over the next few years.

We'll all do it together, taking small steps at a time and building all the way through.

Title tips: Sholing

MARK DUFFY
(CHRISTCHURCH
CHAIRMAN)

The league champions should be any one of the three or four who've spent big – and by that I mean Winchester, Sholing and Blackfield & Langley.

Alresford also seem to have come up with the goods and must fancy



their chances of being competitive after finishing second last year.

We're a club in transition and if we finish in the top half that will be an excellent result bearing in mind we've lost two-thirds of our team and we're not paying money.

We've lost Russell Cook, Ben Osborne, Karl Yelland and Dan Thompson (to Winchester), Jason Collins (to Alresford), Harry Cornick's gone to AFC Bournemouth and Sam Griffin to Wimborne.

Dan Crutchley's retired and we've lost a couple more – Brad Magookin and Ross Lloyd – to Brockenhurst.

All the paying clubs are fighting for the same pool of fish, but Christchurch are in a different pond.

We'll get there the way we've always done it by trying to give youth a chance.

There are no egos at Christchurch, everyone's on a level playing field.

We've got a new manager (Mick Cuffie), new reserve manager and new under-18s and this will be a season hopefully for bedding down for the future.

If we finish top half we'd deem that excellent because of the money being splashed out above.

Any one of four clubs could win it but if Sholing can hang onto their players I'd say it will probably be them.

Title tips: Sholing

STEVE BROUGHAM
(NEWPORT IoW)

ALL CHANGE AT



BIG SHOES TO FILL: Ben Osborne, main pic, Russell Cook, left, and Harry Cornick, above left, have all departed from Christchurch.

MANAGER)

It looks like Alex Prezpolewski, our top scorer last season, is going to give it a go at Havant & Waterlooville.

That means we'll have to try and score from all areas this year, which is something we didn't do last season because we relied heavily on his goals.

Apart from that, I've kept the rest of the squad together and added forward Matt Evans, midfielder Tom Scovell and defender Jake Younie, all from East Cowes Vics, and we're going to push some of our promis-

ing reserve players forward.

All I'll say is that we're going to try to be in the top six again this year.

It's all about consistency levels.

If you look at Bemerton, they were mid-table and then they managed to break into the top six and have stayed there ever since.

That's what we've got to be aiming for.

As for the title, I'd say (champions) Blackfield will easily be top three, but I'd take Sholing to win it only because they're coming down after finishing in a respectable position in the league above and they've kept most, if not all, of their players.

With the experience they've got,

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

CHRISTCHURCH



SIGNING: Bemerton have snapped up ex-Eastleigh and Salisbury ace Aaron Cook.

Sholing should be favourites.

Winchester should be up there too – and you can't rule out Alresford who finished second last season and won three cups.

Teams like us strive to 'do an Alresford', but sometimes it's hard for a club to achieve what they did two seasons in a row.

Clubs like Moneyfields, Fareham, Bemerton and Christchurch are always up there and my outside tip are Portchester.

Title tips: Sholing

**IAN CHALK
(BEMERTON HEATH
MANAGER)**

I'd like to think we've got a strong squad at the moment. We've made some decent signings that we targeted – Sammy Carter, George Way, Blu Boam – and one we hadn't targeted – (ex-Salisbury skipper) Aaron Cook, who I rang when I found out he was available.

We've also brought in Vinnie Rusher from Downton and Matt Holmes who's come in as player/coach.

The only one we've lost is Neil Williams who's gone back to Blackfield, so we've got a big

squad at the moment, which will thin out as time goes by.

For the moment, we'll aim top six and see where it goes.

I haven't even thought about who might win the league.

Sholing are very strong, aren't they? And Blackfield too.

And I fancy Brockenhurst might be a surprise package.

I'd probably edge slightly towards Sholing purely because of the experience they've got playing at a higher standard.

To me, Sholing and Winchester have got as much right to be in this league as anyone else.

We wouldn't moan if they'd been relegated, so why moan if they choose to come down (from the Southern League)?

We've got 95 per cent Wessex footballers in this league and this is as high as they're going to play, so let's pit ourselves against the best.

Title tips: Sholing

**MICK JENKINS (AFC
PORTCHESTER
DIRECTOR OF FOOTBALL)**

In future years we'd love to be considered title favourites but, for the moment, we'd be delighted to finish mid-table or above.

The appointment of Graham Rix as head coach has accelerated our ambition and expectation is understandably high. But we're doing things slowly but surely by developing the ground and building a good youth system. We're trying to avoid the 'boom and bust' scenario.

If people are calling us dark horses, I'm happy with that. But last season was the club's first in the Premier Division and our first aim is an improvement on 15th.

We're building from the bottom, getting the facilities and the infrastructure right, and we're developing the team too with some notable signings like Louie Castles, Lewis Stockford, Joe Bye, Jack Salter-Vaile, Nathan Kirby and goalkeeper Luke Hutchings. Also, Simon Woods, a 20-plus goal a season man, has come back from Bognor.

It's going to be tougher this season with the likes of Winchester and Sholing coming down – plus the perennial high fliers like Blackfield, Alresford and our neighbours Moneyfields.

Leigh Mills returning is bound to strengthen Winchester and Blackfield have probably got the league's best striker in Alex Baldacchino.

But Sholing have Lee Wort and, having finished last season strongly in the Southern League, they should really do well in the Wessex if they've kept the same players.

I don't really know (Sholing boss) Dave Diaper, but I know he builds good teams.

Blackfield are well run and well organised but, if I had to choose, I'd go for Sholing.

Title tips: Sholing

**MATT PARR
(FAREHAM TOWN
MANAGER)**

It's a bit trickier to choose a winner this year. But Sholing probably start as favourites ahead of Winchester simply because their team has been together for some time and Dave (Diaper) has moulded it the way he wants.

Cont on page 12

Non-league News

Skrill signed up to sponsor Conference

SKRILL have taken a load off club chairmen's minds by stepping in to sponsor the Football Conference.

The global online payment company has agreed a three-year deal as the backers of the Conference National, North and South.

It allays fears that the league would be forced to run without a sponsor following the end of bookmakers Blue Square's six-year association with the league.

Conference chairman Brian Lee was delighted to seal the Skrill deal with the new season rapidly approaching.

"Patience has been the key element throughout negotiations by those members of the board tasked with finding a new title sponsor," he said.

"Everyone at the Football Conference has been confident one would be secured.

"We were mindful we needed a company displaying an image and work ethos which suits the modern game, our clubs and their sponsors, whilst not forgetting our ever-growing number of supporters. We sincerely believe we have found such a company in Skrill.

"I am excited for our member clubs that we are able to deliver what we, as a board, promised. Now I ask our clubs, in turn, to embrace Skrill and work with them."

WYVERN Combination League opening week's fixtures:

Tuesday, August 27

Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Sholing, Dorchester Town v Winchester City, New Milton v Eastleigh.

Wednesday, August 28

Division One West: Verwood Town v Lymington Town.

Thursday, August 29

Division One East: US Portsmouth v Colden Common.

Friday, August 30

Division One East: Folland Sports v Locks Heath.

Division One West: Fawley v Hythe & Dibden.

Saturday, August 31

Premier Division: AFC Totton v Wimborne Town, Bemerton HH v Moneyfields.

Division One East: Alton v Petersfield, Hayling Utd v Newport IoW, Hordean v Alresford.

Division One West: Downton v East Cowes Vics, Laverstock & Ford v Christchurch, Ringwood v Romsey (provisional).

Wyvern Shield League Phase A: Tadley Calleva v Team Solent.

SEE MONDAY'S DAILY ECHO FOR MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS

Non-league News

LOCAL AND NATIONAL FOOTBALL FIXTURES

Monday, August 5

CAPITAL ONE CUP

First round: Preston v Blackpool.

FRIENDLY

Gosport Borough v Bognor Regis.

Tuesday, August 6

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Third qualifying round second leg:

Fenerbahce v SV Red Bull Salzburg, Grasshoppers v Lyon, Maccabi Tel-Aviv v Basle, Maribor v Apoel Nicosia, Partizan Belgrade v Ludogorets, Skenderbeu v Shakhtyor Karaganda, Steaua Bucuresti v Dinamo Tbilisi.

CAPITAL ONE CUP

First round:

Barnsley v Scunthorpe, Birmingham v Plymouth, Bournemouth v Portsmouth, Brentford v Dag & Red, Brighton v Newport County, Bristol Rovers v Watford, Bury v Crewe, Charlton v Oxford Utd, Cheltenham v Crawley Town, Colchester v Peterborough, Doncaster v Rochdale, Exeter v QPR, Gillingham v Bristol City, Huddersfield v Bradford, Leeds v Chesterfield, Leyton Orient v Coventry, Middlesbrough v Accrington Stanley, Millwall v AFC Wimbledon, Morecambe v Wolverhampton, Northampton v Milton Keynes Dons, Nottm Forest v Hartlepool, Oldham v Derby, Port Vale v Walsall, Rotherham v Sheff Wed, Sheff Utd v Burton Albion, Shrewsbury v Bolton, Southend v Yeovil, Stevenage v Ipswich, Swindon v Torquay, Tranmere v Mansfield, Wycombe v Leicester, York v Burnley.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division:

AFC Portchester v Verwood, Bemerton HH v Bournemouth Poppies, Blackfield & Langley v Alresford, Downton v Horndean, Fareham v Hamworthy Utd, Folland Sports v Brockenhurst, Moneyfields v Lympington Town, Sholing v Romsey.

FRIENDLIES

Hythe & Dibden v Eastleigh Res, New College, Swindon v Amesbury Town (7.30), Wimborne Town v Bridport.

Wednesday, August 7

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Third qualifying round second leg:

FC Metalist Kharkiv v PAOK Salon, FC Sheriff v Dinamo Zagreb, FH Hafnarfjörður v FK Austria Vi, IF Elfsborg v Celtic, Legia Warsaw v Molde, Plzen v Nomme Kalju, Zenit St Petersburg v FC Nordsjælland, Zulte-Waregem v PSV.

CAPITAL ONE CUP

First round: Carlisle v Blackburn, Leeds v Chesterfield, Notts County v Fleetwood Town.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Christchurch v Whitchurch, Fawley AFC v Winchester City.

Thursday, August 8

UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE

Third qualifying round second leg:

Breidablik v Aktobe, Bursaspor v Vojvodina, Club Brugge v Slask Wroclaw, Crvena Zvezda v Chornomorets, Dila Gori v Hajduk Split, FC 03 Differdange v Tromsø, FC Astra Giurgiu v AS Trencin, FC Milsami v St Etienne, FC Thun v BK Hacken, FC Zurich v Liberec, Gefle IF v FK Qarabag, Hapoel Ramat Gan v Estoril, Hapoel Tel-Aviv v Pandurii Targu, Kuban Krasnodar v Motherwell, Lech Poznan v VMFD Zalgiris, MSK Zilina v Rijeka, Maccabi Haifa v FK Ventpsils, Malmö FF v Swansea, Metallurg

● Continued on opposite page

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

ARE TITLE FANCIES

From page 11

Graham (Kemp) has made some good signings at Winchester, but he might need another season for the team to gel.

When you hit a sticky patch it's often that togetherness that gets you through.

But I don't think anyone will walk away with it because of the quality in mid-table.

There are three teams in with an almost equal chance – Blackfield being the third.

Alresford and Portchester will be in the mix behind the top three having both brought in good players and then you've got the experience of Bemerton and Moneyfields.

We've got a tough season ahead of us at Fareham having lost a couple of lads, Matt Burt and James Roden, to Follands (formerly GE Hamble).

We've signed on a few but it's hard to replace Monkey's (Roden's) experience and quality in the dressing room and Matt's height and quality on the park.

I've been in this league for around seven years now and this is the hardest I've known it because of quality of the mid-table squads. But we'll do our best to equal or improve on ninth place last year.

We've signed Pete Murphy and Lee Tigwell from Hayling and Ian Humble and Sam Knight from Alton.

We've got a hard-working team, but we lack that bit of quality that some of the other clubs have got.

Title tips: Sholing

MILES RUTHERFORD (MONEYFIELDS MANAGER)

It's got to be Sholing to win the league.

There are six or seven sides who will be up there, but with the players Sholing have got, they'll be very strong.

Alresford, Bemerton Heath and Winchester City are strong sides with the signings they've made and Newport IoW will be the surprise package amongst them.

Bemerton will push Sholing. Ian Chalk always has them well organised, so they're going to be very dangerous.

He's got a bit of a budget now and they've been signing players from Salisbury so that'll make them especially strong.

I'm hoping for a top-eight finish. On our day we can beat anyone, but with a squad of 17/18 players we could be stretched.

I've got four or five injuries at the moment and that's when we could come undone.

Title tips: Sholing

JIM MACEY (WHITCHURCH UNITED MANAGER)

It's got to be Winchester City. They're the ones attracting the



EXPECTING A BIG SEASON: Totton and Eling's Sam Carter.

players and have the larger budget.

But obviously Sholing will be up there too along with Blackfield & Langley and Christchurch.

There are two leagues here – one league with those who have got the budget and those of us who don't.

We're in that non-budget league because we're a charity-run club, so against those teams there's not much chance.

We're hoping for a mid-table finish, competing with teams like Lympington.

Hopefully we won't come straight back down.

We've got a good coach in Jason Musselwhite, who's doing his UEFA A licence, and we've got some new young signings in, so that should be good.

But we've lost (ex-Saint) Sam

Argent to Hartley Wintney and that's a massive loss for us after his goals last season.

It's got to be Winchester, Sholing, Blackfield and Alresford who will be up there among the league's best sides.

Title tips: Winchester City

KENNY VAUGHAN (BOURNEMOUTH POPPIES MANAGER)

Sholing have to be favourites for me.

Alresford might run them close, so that's the only other side, and Winchester are also strong.

We're aiming for mid-table.

We're not in the running for the top, but we're doing all right. We've

got a lot of new faces and we've started to rebuild what we lost.

A lot of players went in the last couple of seasons so we're not the most tried and tested Wessex League side. All our players have a point to prove.

Title tips: Sholing

ADIE ARNOLD (VERWOOD TOWN MANAGER)

Sholing should win it with the squad they've kept together.

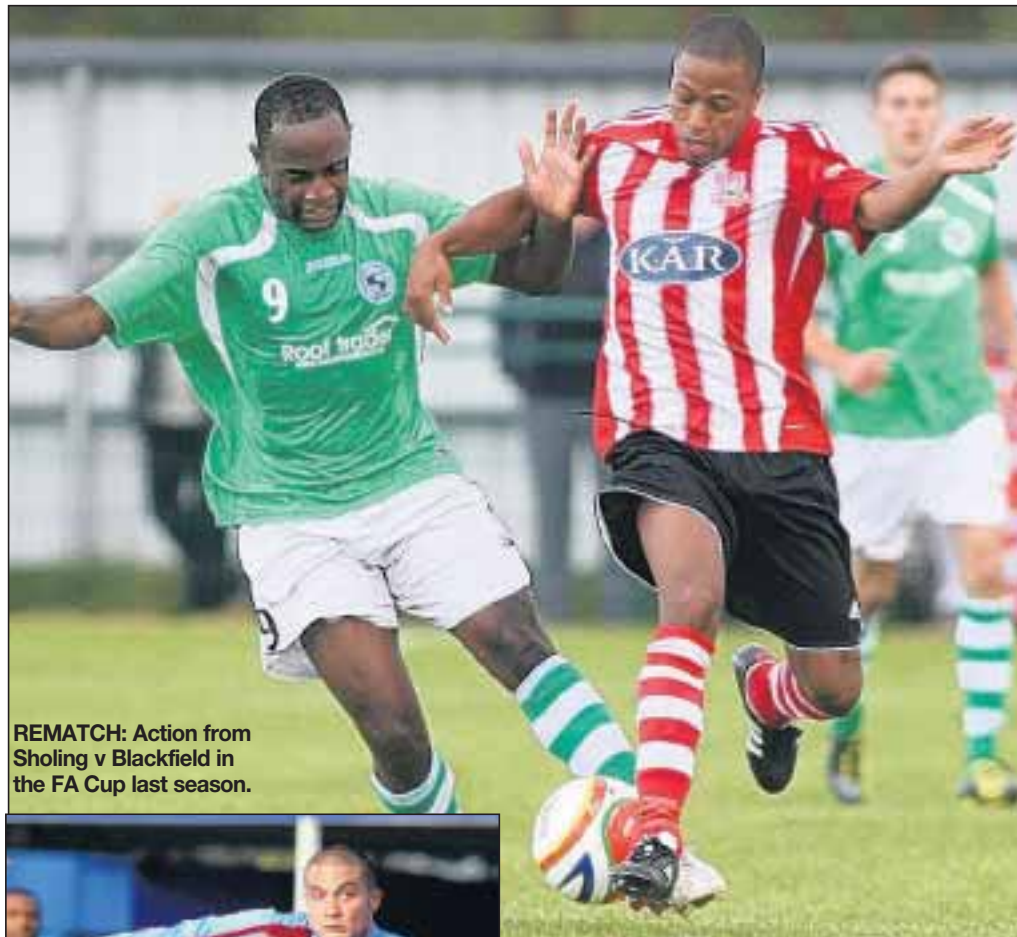
Winchester will be the other stand-out side and I'd imagine most people would agree.

The side Winchester have put together puts them under a lot of pressure.

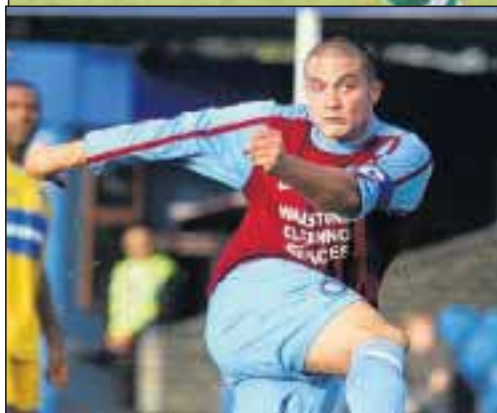
MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS ONLINE AT: www.dailyecho.co.uk

SYDENHAMS WESSEX PREMIER LEAGUE PREVIEW

A CLASS APART?



REMATCH: Action from Sholing v Blackfield in the FA Cup last season.



KEY MEN: Hamble's James Roden, left, and Downton striker Declan McGregor, right.

There's also Alresford as well as three or four other sides like Bemerton Heath Harlequins and Moneyfields and I'd say Blackfield & Langley will also be up there.

Portchester may be the surprise team, but the squads Sholing and Winchester have got will make them very strong.

It's going to be a tough league with plenty of twists and turns.

For us a top-ten finish is the aim.

We've got no playing budget really. We need to be consistent and not get dragged into a fight down at the bottom.

We're not a weak side and we have confidence.

Title tips: Sholing

STUART HUSSEY (TOTTEN & ELING CO-MANAGER)

Sholing will win it at a canter. They finished seventh in the league above, they've lost no players and have added some.

It's theirs for the taking as long as Dave (Diaper) gets them up for it – and I'm sure he will because he's a good motivator.

Sholing's only problem will be that every team that plays them will treat it like a cup final. They will all be trying that bit harder than they would against one of the lower sides.

It's human nature, like all teams

wanting to beat Man Utd.

Winchester won't be far away. It's a new side for Graham (Kemp) to bring together, but they should be up there with the money they're spending.

We've got none of that pressure on us.

We've lost Sammy Carter to Bemerton, but an intelligent footballer called Joey Herbert has landed on our doorstep.

He's ex-Forest Green, but he hasn't played for a couple of years, and Ben'yela Ngwa brought him along to training.

He's a skilful attacking player who's living in Southampton.

Hopefully we'll do okay, but it's going to be hard to compete with

the top teams.

Title tips: Sholing

JEFF SOFTLEY (DOWNTON MANAGER)

It's Winchester City for me without a doubt.

Why? Because of the signings they've made and because Kempy (Graham Kemp) is a good manager.

Dave Malone (Winchester's director of football) is a good bloke who I've known a long time and they'll have the right ammunition to be successful.

Sholing's Dave Diaper's a good friend of mine and they'll be majorly strong too, as will Blackfield, Alresford and Bemerton.

I tipped Bemerton to win it last year and what a couple of signings they've just made in Aaron Cook and George Way.

But if Winchester do things right, they'll win the league.

They've taken a couple of players off me – Nic Turpin, who knows where the back of the net is, and centre-half Matt Scott who was my manager's player last season.

Matt's strong and he's a winner with a great attitude.

We've also lost Vinnie Rusher to Bemerton and Brandon Mundy to Salisbury and Danny Urry's out injured for the whole season.

But we've still got the likes of Declan McGregor and Charles Aldridge who, in my opinion, is one of the best keepers in the league, and we've signed frontman Matt Austin from Romsey.

Ben Smith is still with us, but he's out long-term with a groin problem.

It's going to be hard for us at the beginning with a young side.

Title tips: Winchester City

DAVID SAGAR (HORNDEAN CHAIRMAN)

It's got to be one of three teams to win it – Blackfield, Sholing or Winchester.

And I'd probably go for Sholing because they've got the better all round of everything.

They were a Wessex side, they went up and now they've come back down again to do ground improvements.

But they'll probably only stay down for a season and go back up again and, because of that, I'd imagine they've kept quite a few of their players.

Sholing are a well settled, good running side and I would have thought they'd have the edge.

We'd hope to maybe get up to sixth or seventh (they were 11th last season) and move on year on year.

We've kept the majority of last season's team which will help us.

Sometimes you bring in new players who are star players, but they don't always fit into the framework.

Title tips: Sholing

Non-league News

Donetsk v FK Kukesi, Mladost Podgorica v Sevilla, Rapid Vienna v Asteras Tripoli, Rubin Kazan v Randers FC, St Johnstone v Minsk, Standard Liege v Skoda Xanthi, Stromsgodset v Jablonec, Trabzonspor v Dinamo Minsk, Udinese v Siroki Brijeg, VfB Stuttgart v Botev Plovdiv, Vitesse v Petrolul Ploiesti.

Friday, August 9

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE Premier Division: Folland Sports v Downton, Sholing v Bournemouth Poppies.

Saturday, August 10

SKY BET FOOTBALL LEAGUE Championship: Blackburn v Nottm Forest, Blackpool v Barnsley, Bolton v Reading, Brighton v Derby, Charlton v Middlesbrough, Huddersfield v QPR, Ipswich v Millwall, Sheff Wed v Burnley, Watford v Bournemouth, Yeovil v Birmingham.

League One: Bradford v Carlisle, Brentford v Sheff Utd, Colchester v Port Vale, Leyton Orient v Shrewsbury, Milton Keynes Dons v Crewe, Notts County v Peterborough, Oldham v Walsall, Rotherham v Preston, Swindon v Stevenage, Tranmere v Crawley Town, Wolverhampton v Gillingham.

League Two: AFC Wimbledon v Wycombe, Accrington Stanley v Portsmouth, Bristol Rovers v Scunthorpe, Burton Albion v Rochdale, Chesterfield v Cheltenham, Dag & Red v York, Hartlepool v Southend, Mansfield v Exeter, Morecambe v Torquay, Northampton v Newport County, Oxford Utd v Bury, Plymouth v Fleetwood Town.

SKRILL CONFERENCE

Premier Division: Barnet v Chester FC, Dartford v Alfreton Town, Forest Green v Hyde, Grimsby v Aldershot, Hereford v Braintree Town, Kidderminster v Gateshead, Macclesfield v Nuneaton, Salisbury v Tamworth, Southport v Luton, Woking v Lincoln City, Wrexham v Welling.

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE

Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Alresford, Hamworthy Utd v Bemerton HH, Horndean v Blackfield & Langley, Newport IoW v Fawley AFC, Romsey v Moneyfields, Verwood v Christchurch, Whitchurch v Lymington Town, Winchester City v AFC Portchester.

Division One: Cowes Sports v Andover NS, Laverstock & Ford v US Portsmouth, Pewsey Vale v East Cowes Vics, Ringwood v Amesbury, Stockbridge v New Milton, Tadley Calvea v Hythe & Dibden.

SWL Cup, first round: Fleet Spurs v Team Solent, Hayling Utd v Fareham, Totton & Eling v Petersfield.

SWL Cup, second round: Fleet Spurs v Team Solent, Hayling Utd v Fareham Town, Totton & Eling v Petersfield.

PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE PREMIER LEAGUE

Premier Division: Baffins Milton Rovers v AFC Stoneham, Bishops Waltham v Liss, Clanfield v Hedge End Rangers, Colden Common v QK Southampton, Fleetlands v Overton, Headley Utd v Bournemouth Sports, Liphook Utd v Otterbourne, Paulsgrove v AFC Alderminster, Winchester Castle v Locks Heath.

FRIENDLIES

Bashley v Wimborne Town, Burridge v Warsash (Stoneham Park), Gosport Borough v Weymouth, North Leigh v Eastleigh, Poole Town v Basingstoke Town.

MORE NON-LEAGUE NEWS ONLINE AT: www.dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Rovers land ex-Saint

FORMER Saints youth player James Rowe has signed for League One outfit Tranmere Rovers.

The 21-year-old midfielder impressed on trial from Forest Green Rovers and has been rewarded with a one-year deal at Prenton Park. Oxford-born Rowe came through Southampton's academy before joining Reading. He spent time on loan at Basingstoke Town and Lewes before signing for Forest Green two years ago, since when he has made 41 appearances for ex-Saints coach Dave Hockaday's side. Tranmere boss Ronnie Moore said: "James has done really well in pre-season, and I think he will get better and better with experience. "He's got a lot of energy, is calm on the ball and has good passing ability."

Hammers get Dom

HAMWORTHY United have added former New Milton, Bashley and Winchester City frontman/midfielder Dominic Allen, below, to their ranks from Sydenhams Wessex champions Blackfield & Langley.

Hammers boss Simon Browne has also brought defender Sam Lockyer back to the County Ground following spells with Wimborne Town and Bournemouth Poppies, while ex-Poole Town duo Diane Bassiriki and Dave Sturgess have opted to stay with the Sydenhams Premier outfit.



Styles takes positives

ANDOVER New Street continued their pre-season build-up with a 2-1 home defeat to Hartley Wintney.

Manager Matt Styles said: "They were a very good side but we matched them and dominated for the majority of the game."

Cole Hinchcliffe levelled for New Street after the visitors had taken advantage of an error, but they conceded again late in the second half. Styles welcomed back Nick Oliver to the club and is hopeful of clinching a couple more signings before New Street's Sydenhams One opener at Cowes Sports next Saturday (August 10).

Shaun of the red! McAuley sent off in friendly

EX-EASTLEIGH wideman Shaun McAuley looks set to miss the first three games of the new season – after being sent off in a friendly!

The Basingstoke Town midfielder saw red one minute before the end of Tuesday's home game against a Salisbury City XI following a bust-up with visiting defender Matt Clarke, who also received his marching orders.

Referee Colin Lymer could have dealt with the situation differently, perhaps ordering the benches to substitute the players. But, having brandished two red cards, it is likely both men will be hit with three-match bans.

It was a disappointing end to an otherwise good performance by Town, who won 3-1 through ex-Salisbury and Eastleigh hitman Robbie Matthews (2)

and Simon Dunn.

Brandon Mundy, Salisbury's summer signing from Sydenhams Premier neighbours Downton, replied.

Basingstoke manager Jason Bristow reflected: "Common sense possibly should have prevailed and both players could have been taken off without getting red cards.

"Because Shaun will miss three games now, it left the whole night on a bit of a downer.

"I think their player head-butted Shaun. "The Salisbury manager has apologised for that, but the referee has said Shaun reacted and swung at him. If that's the case, then it is really silly."

If McAuley does receive a three-match ban, it will rule him out of games against Conference South new boys Concord

Rangers (away, August 17) and Gosport Borough (home, August 20) and at home to his old club Eastleigh on August 24.

His exclusion could prove personally costly if Bristow adds to midfield competition with the signing of Reading youngster Andrew Jenkinson, who has impressed in pre-season.

Matthews was particularly effective against his old club on Tuesday.

The striker ran the Salisbury defence ragged with his aerial prowess and used his strength to bring other players into the game.

"Robbie showed what he can offer tonight," said Bristow.

"It was a powerful header for his first goal and a nice finish for his second.

"We know what he can do and he will thrive if we play to his strengths."



RED CARD: Shaun McAuley.

DAN'S THE MAN FOR CITY

SKRILL Conference Premier new boys Salisbury City have further strengthened their strike force by re-signing Dan Fitchett.

The ex-Wycombe frontman spent the early part of pre-season at Sky Bet League Two outfit Southend United.

But he is now back at Old Sarum and will join ex-Saint Jamie White, Chris McPhee and new boys Warren Feeney and Ben Wright on manager Mike Harris's list of attacking options.

Harris is looking forward to working with the ambitious 22-year-old again this term.

"Dan had a fantastic season in the Conference South, scoring lots of goals," said the boss.

"He's got plenty of pace and power, which scares defenders.

"I know how ambitious Dan is as he wanted to climb into the Football League and we didn't want to stand in his way.

"He is delighted to be back and is committed to the cause. It's not a new environment for him as he knows the players so well and I'm looking forward to working with him once again.

"I'm really happy with my attacking options and each striker brings something different to the table."

Also penning a new deal at Old Sarum is defender Luke Ruddick.

It's been a frustrating year for the 23-year-old, being out of action due a broken foot.

But he will make his return to the Conference in a week's time when Tamworth visit the Raymond McEnhill Stadium (August 10), and Harris feels he is a fantastic asset to the squad.

"Luke's had a horrendous year and deserves to be back on the pitch," said the Whites boss.

"He's a versatile defender and can play as a right-back or left-back for us, which is what he did when we were last in the Premier.

"He puts in a huge amount of effort each week and is a fantastic asset to the team."

Salisbury continued their pre-season build-up with a 4-0 win over an AFC Bournemouth development side on Wednesday. New signing Ben Wright bagged all four goals.



OLD SARUM RETURN: Dan Fitchett, left.

Non-league Football

SALES BATTLE PROVED DILLON WAS CONFERENCE MATERIAL

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

IT WAS Eastleigh new boy Chris Dillon's performance against an Eastleigh old boy that first convinced Graham Kemp that he had the makings of a Conference South player.

After training with the Spitfires since the start of pre-season, Dillon was officially signed by the Silverlake club prior to last Friday's friendly against Saints under-21s when he started in place of absent centre-back Chris Todd.

That came as no surprise to his old Christchurch boss Kemp, pictured below, who quickly spotted Dillon's teenage potential.

He said: "I can remember playing Sholing away when they had (former Eastleigh targetman) Paul Sales up front and, at 18 years of age, Chris gave as good as he got.

"Salesy was coming towards the end of his career then, but he was still a good, strong player and Chris stood toe to toe with him.

"Chris came off with a cut eye, a bruised lip and a battered nose, but he didn't back down at all."

It was another of Kemp's former Priory starlets, Eastleigh left-back Michael Green, who pointed Dillon in the direction of Spitfires manager Richard Hill.

Kemp, now manager of Sydenhams Premier outfit Winchester City, recalled: "Chris was



part of the golden era at Christchurch when youth products like Greener, Adam Costello, Russell Cook and Tom Price came through and it's no surprise to me that they're all playing – or have played – at a higher level.

"For me, it was great to join Christchurch and have all those lads coming through at the same time. They'd all come up through Priory's successful youth system and were used to winning.

"You wouldn't want to liken them to Beckham, Giggs, Scholes etc at Man United, but it was the equivalent sort of thing at Christchurch that year.

"They were a good bunch of players, all genuine, nice, well-bred lads, and they all came into the team at 16 or 17 in the year we got to the last 16 of the FA Vase.

"They've all gone on to do good things.

"Chris went off to do a scholarship in America and Canada for a couple of years and he won a trophy out there (the North American Premier Development League



Arnold:
Anything less than play-offs would be a let-down

SKIPPER Scott Arnold insists Wimborne Town must make the Calor Southern One South & West play-off this season and admits anything less would be a "let-down".

Wimborne's war chest has enabled boss Steve Cuss to persuade strike pair James Stokoe and Mark Gamble to step down a level from Southern Premier outfit Bashley.

Luke Whitley has also dropped down from troubled AFC Totton, while highly-rated Christchurch winger Sam Griffin and returning midfielder Ollie Phillips-Masters have joined the promotion quest.

Arnold, pictured above left, said: "You've only got to look at the players

we've brought in to see the ambition of the club this season and we are looking at the play-offs, if not better.

"We have got to aim high because the players we have brought in are not coming here to stand still, they want to push on and get back to the league they came from.

"(New chairman) Paul Miller said he wants promotion in the next two years, but I think we would be disappointed if we do not make the play-offs because the squad we have should definitely achieve that."

According to Arnold, the new frontline duo of Stokoe and Gamble hold the key to success.

"To bring a strike pair from a higher

division who have played together and know what each other's game is about is massive," he said.

"It is not just goals they bring, but the ability to hold the ball up, slow the game down and let everyone else catch up at vital times."

Former Winchester City striker Gamble scored twice as Wimborne eased past Bemerton Heath Harlequins 3-0 in last Saturday's friendly at Western Way.

The Ulsterman opened the scoring on the stroke of half-time and added a second ten minutes into the second half.

Jamie Davidson, who had an outstanding game in midfield, made it 3-0 after the hour mark.

from Eastleigh in May.

The 23-year-old got his senior break with Winchester seven years ago and went on to play for Farnborough, Brentford, QPR, Salisbury and Dorchester.

He joined Eastleigh in November 2011, initially on loan, and finished last season on loan at Maidenhead.

"Chris has played one-and-a-half games for us and looks very sharp. He's a clever player," said Kemp.

Non-league News

Jamie's home pride
JAMIE Beasley is determined to make the most of his chance at Skrill Conference South outfit Dorchester Town after securing a deal with his hometown club.

The 26-year-old forward is looking to re-launch his career following spells at Weymouth, Poole Town, Taunton and, most recently, Kangaroos in the Dorset League.

After being invited to pre-season training, the Yeovil Town academy product impressed the Magpies so much that they offered him a season-long contract. Now Beasley is focused on making up for lost time.

"I don't know if I lost interest at Weymouth, it's hard to say why it didn't work out," he said.

"I went to play for Poole then Taunton, but they weren't paying my travelling expenses so I decided to play for Kangaroos for the rest of last season.

"I haven't played at this level since I was at Weymouth so my fitness wasn't the best when I started training.

"But I've worked hard and now I want to show people what I can do."

Ex-Spitfire on move
SKRILL Conference South club Chelmsford City have signed ex-Eastleigh midfielder Mark Hughes.

The former Northern Ireland senior/under-21 international, pictured below, joined the Spitfires last summer after making more than 130 first-team appearances for Barnet.

But he was one of several first-teamers to leave the Silverlake Stadium at the end of 2012/13 as manager Richard Hill continued to rebuild the squad he inherited from predecessor Ian Baird.

A former Tottenham youth star, Hughes made 60 league appearances on loan at Oldham Athletic. The tough-tackling 29-year-old has also played for Northampton, Thurrock, Chesterfield, Stevenage and Chester.



CALL NON-LEAGUE WRITER WENDY GEE ON 023 8042 4483

Clubs just can't splash their cash

IT'S been an interesting time for Saints as they come towards the end of their pre-season. Eight goals against Palamós CF with a hat-trick from Guly Do Prado is some start.

Guly represents a real enigma for Saints. The word 'mercurial' doesn't come close to describing him.

When he is in form, he can be a game changer. When he's not, he might as well sit in the stands with the rest of us.

There's no real middle ground.

If Do Prado can get his head straight and play to his undoubted ability, he could be one of the most important signings of the summer.

Whilst you could say it's been a relatively quiet summer for Saints, we've been linked with a lot of top quality players and yet signed just two of them.

Is this lack of signings a symptom of weakness that we haven't signed some of the players we have been interested in, or a sign of strength that we went for them in the first place?

Ask Arsenal Manchester Utd or Tottenham, who have also been linked to a shedload of quality players yet have also signed just a few.

It might seem, to the cynical eye, that the English Premier League may be viewed by some players as being certainly the richest league in the world, but not necessarily the best.

Saints may end this summer without any of the big names they've been linked with, but it's a sign they're looking to aim higher rather than just tread water.

The playing field is getting narrower every year. The mere fact that Arsenal are desperately trying to spend money tells you all you need to know.

Any club that flexes a bit of financial muscle right now can get prime position in the chase for silverware, and that's reflected in the almost desperate search for top level talent.

This coming season promises to be the closest one in years. Who'd have thought the retirement of one man could open things up so much? August 17th can't come quick enough...

SAINTS ENIGMA:
Guly Do Prado.

As good as it gets for sports fans ...



IN a quiet week for football, the spotlight fell on the 2012 Olympics and the costs and profits it generated.

Experts last week stated the economy has seen a £9.9bn boost in trade and investment from hosting the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Government estimates put the cost of hosting the Games at £8.9bn, which would show a fairly decent profit.

It didn't take long for the suits to pick apart the figures and dissect them.

Were the Olympics that much of a success? Record breaking uptakes of sports weren't forthcoming, so it must have been a failure?

A summer of British sporting excellence would tell you that it was most certainly a success.

A British male winner at Wimbledon after 77 years of waiting, a second successive Tour de France winner, England running riot over the Aussies, the British and Irish Lions winning in Australia.

Surely British sport has never had it so good?

I have a huge problem with politicians or accountants getting involved in sport. When sport is going our way, they come out of the closet in their droves, Wimbledon being the worst culprit.

Come the final days of the tournament out they come, strawberries in hand, basking in the glory it generates whilst the fans wait in queues outside.

The FA Cup is another haven for the locusts. But whenever recession kicks in, the sports and the arts are the first casualties.

Over the last 20 years, countless playing fields in this country have been concreted over – money spent on grass roots football slowly drying up as the powers that be seek to save money in these harsh financial times.

Ask yourself, in such harsh times what do we live for? The weekend? The occasional blue sky? That rare red letter day?

If you fail to support sports or the arts, what do you aim for? What inspires you?

Sport gives us the desire to succeed, to train hard, to work hard, to gain results.

The arts inspire us to acknowledge beauty and challenge us intellectually. Without them, what do we aspire to?

I honestly believe that if this government, or any government for that matter, had its way we'd all work Monday to Friday, get drunk on a Saturday, recover on a Sunday and go back to work on a Monday, never questioning our place in the world.

The "Walking Dead" isn't a documentary... We are constantly told of the burden



SIGN OF THE TIMES: Chris Froome is the second Brit running to win the Tour.

the NHS faces and yet the very thing that could significantly reduce NHS queues is the one thing that seems to slip past the government, unless it fancies a jolly or a day out.

A nation of people who actually get up off their backsides and get active. Wouldn't that be something?

I'd normally mention a trip to Australia and what the Australian government does to encourage sports and get people out and about, but you know it would only prompt a government fact finding mission to Australia at our expense.

That's politics for you. It should never be mixed with sport... ever.

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football



SPURS WOULD BE LOSERS IN £100M BALE DEAL



TRANSFER SAGA: Ex-Saint Gareth Bale.

ECLIPSING even the Luis Suarez affair, the news of Real Madrid's world record bid for Gareth Bale has kicked the transfer window into overdrive and become the biggest transfer saga of recent times.

That's understandable given that it is the biggest club in the world and they are looking to smash their own record in order to claim the much-coveted Welshman. It does however raise a few questions for both clubs involved and the player himself.

Spurs have been on the cusp of Champions League football for some time though and the sale of their most prized possession would almost certainly be a blow to those ambitions. The money they receive would surely be used to re-invest in and revitalise the squad though. Of that much you can be sure, but it is the calibre of player that they are able to attract that will determine life after Bale.

Having sold off Carrick, Berbatov and Modric in recent years, Spurs face the unwelcome possibility that they will be labelled a 'selling club'. Once you've been painted with this brush, your ability to attract the world's best is greatly damaged. They only need to look across north London to the Emirates to see how that unfolds.

The Gunners are without a marquee signing so far this season as they simply don't have the clout they once possessed. It is interesting to note that Spurs have already broken their transfer record once this season to purchase Paulinho and look set to do it again to secure Roberto Soldado's signature. Would these players have signed if they knew Bale was heading the other way?

Bale is only rivalled by Messi and Ronaldo when it comes to his ability to change a game with an explosive, driving run or a slalom dribble and tracer bullet finish. He's the type of player that wins games and, dare I say it, leagues. The type of player that you build a dynasty around. Sure, football is a team sport, but individual brilliance can change a match, and Bale has it in heaps.

The difference is he's not at Manchester United, Chelsea, Bayern or Barcelona, he's at Tottenham and he's got three years to run on his contract. Daniel Levy would do well to dig in his heels for the good of his club.

And what of the player himself? He's at the peak of his powers following a quite brilliant campaign, culminating in personal awards. But the Santiago Bernabeu is littered with players – both past and present – that have seen their career trajectory falter in the bright lights of the Spanish capital.

He is the same age Cristiano Ronaldo found himself when Los Blancos came calling, but is he the same player?

Ronaldo had won three league titles and a Champions League crown, and made the move

as World Player of the Year – certainly reason enough to part with £80m. He has since gone on to score 201 goals in 199 games in the famous all-white strip. Could Bale match those numbers? And if he doesn't, given his world record transfer fee, will he be considered a flop?

Then there is Madrid, with their seemingly endless cash flow and host of players and ex-players that have been used as a marketing tool to plant the seed in Bale and his minders' minds. Speculation was rife at the conclusion of last season, but they have bided their time as the likes of Zidane, Ramos and Casillas have charmed Bale through the media. Whilst it falls short of tapping up, according to UEFA's bylaws, it certainly resembles as much to an outsider.

Spurs and Daniel Levy have continually said that Bale is not for sale, yet reports emanating from Spain have been decidedly different. Using local newspaper *La Marca* as a mouthpiece, all and sundry have shared their opinion on why Bale should move across to the mainland.

Then there is the money. The reported £100m that they are willing to offer is a ludicrous amount, roughly the financial budget of a small African country. Already ingrained in £500m debt, how is this moving them closer to FIFA Financial Fair Play regulations?

Finally, you have to ask is Gareth Bale a player that Madrid need? Is he the missing piece in their quest for a tenth Champions League crown, or is he the obligatory summer marquee signing that the fans are begging for in light of Barcelona's capture of Brazilian wonderkid Neymar?

That particular signing was completed for roughly around half the price. It's difficult to say that Bale – as good as he is – is worth double the Brazilian number 10.

Finally, what of Southampton, the club where Bale first made his name.

Had they inserted a sell-on clause of, say, 15 per cent, they would stand to earn a huge windfall for their coffers should the move go ahead. Unfortunately, they did not, although under FIFA rules they would be due a proportion of the total transfer fee – about 2.5 per cent – for their role in training and educating Bale. On a £100m deal it's still a pretty penny, but hardly the cash injection that it could've been.

So having surveyed all the players in this high-stakes game, is it really the right move for all involved?

The simple answer would be no.

Transfers like these are almost never worth their weight in gold to all parties involved. Sure, those with prior experience will tell you that sort of money is not to be shirked at, and that Bale may never reproduce the form shown last season. That is a gamble that Spurs should be willing to take though, because this lad is a world-beater and for a club like Spurs, a once in a generation player.

“ This lad is a world-beater and for a club like Spurs, a once in a generation player ”

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



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You have to use your skill and judgement to determine the exact centre of the ball.

Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

Every coupon will be carefully examined and the jackpot prize will be paid to the entrant whose cross marks the exact centre of the ball when the photograph was taken.

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When a jackpot has been won the next week's prize reverts back to £6,000 and the nearest-miss prize at £1,000.

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Adam Rant



This week's big talking points
with **Adam Leitch**

Race to relish

DEBATE has been raging, well bubbling along, as to who would win a 600m race between Usain Bolt and Mo Farah.

It would certainly attract a lot of attention and media coverage, and potentially a lot of money for charity and for that reason let's hope it does happen.

As for the result, well there are obviously a lot of variables which would become clear when we know where it is hosted.

But in a foot race over 600m they would be pretty even – the difference between them would be the tactics.

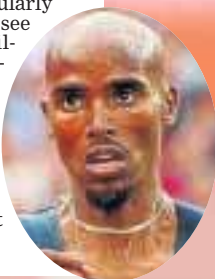
Bolt would be crazy to bomb off to try and shake Farah, and if he did that he would lose.

But if Farah tried to keep a constant and steady rhythm, and Bolt could stay just behind him, then his kick of pace would surely see him win.

Whatever the result though this is potentially a great public spectacle and if it is charities that are benefitting then it would be great to see it happen.

Even better would be some other crossovers – it would be particularly interesting to see how multi-millionaire footballers would survive in other areas where their speed or endurance is tested.

Probably not too well.



SHOWDOWN?: Usain Bolt and, inset, Mo Farah.



DID RUDDICK SAVE BALE FROM FOOTBALL SCRAPHEAP?



ROD RUDDICK

SOME things make you start to feel old. Gareth Bale is one of them.

It's easy to look back wistfully on a time long since passed, but to watch his development so closely over so many years has been remarkable.

Adam Rant can remember watching the young, fledgling Bale as a 16-year-old playing in front of one man and his dog at Staplewood, in the youth ranks and then the reserve team.

He was obviously hugely talented, but it wasn't clear that he would go on to become a player potentially sold for a world record £100m just eight years later.

Speaking to Bale in those early, tentative first days in and around a pro set-up was also interesting.

Now in interviews he comes across as relatively polished and competent, but back then he was very friendly but also incredibly shy and nervous and more than a little twitchy.

It's all part of the learning process of professional football of course, but he has clearly matured as a person as well as a player.

Adam Rant can remember speaking to George Burley at the time he called him into his first team squad and being told off the record that he considered him a massively exciting prospect, but he didn't want too much pressure heaped on him too early.

Bale's immediate success meant there was no chance of playing him down.

After he had left for Tottenham there was only the chance to see snippets of Bale on TV, to be fair initially he only played for them in snippets.

And then, last season, Adam Rant got to see him twice in person again. The difference between the youngster who played at Staplewood and the lad on the pitch at St Mary's and White Hart Lane last season was phenomenal.

Here was a young man that had almost been released by Saints because they considered that he wasn't physically strong enough, looking as though he was, for a footballer at least, a fine athlete.

Indeed, how different the whole story might have been had it not been for Rod Ruddick, the Saints scout who spotted him as a youngster, mentored him and then pressed the club into keeping him when he might have been released.

It is a sliding doors type moment – Gareth Bale might not be going to Real Madrid for £85m because, he might not even be a professional footballer. Amazing stuff.

He is quite remarkable though, and it's no surprise his talents are in demand.

As a defender he is quite simply your



SAINTS ACADEMY DAYS: Gareth Bale.

worst nightmare.

Most pacy wingers are small and relatively easy to knock off the ball. Also so few of them, down the years as well as just now, have a decent end product when their pace has got them away.

None of those things can be said about Bale.

He is more than 6ft tall and strong and broad shouldered. When he runs at pace defenders bounce off him rather than the other way around.

And as for an end product – wow. Crossing, shooting, goalscoring – he has the lot in his locker.

Is a move to Madrid a good one for him?

Probably it is.

Though the Premier League is fantastic, too many British talents have stayed at home when going abroad may have benefited them as a player and a person.

Adam Rant probably wouldn't have had Bale down as somebody who would go abroad, given that he was always very homely and shy, but then he's been in London for quite a few years so why not Madrid?

How things change.

Simple case of human error

REGULAR readers will know that Adam Rant has more than a few issues with the video Decision Review System in the world of cricket but the flack it has received this week following the shocking decision that went against Usman Khawaja is unfair.

He was given out by the on field umpire but immediately referred the decision, knowing he hadn't hit it.

The technology was used to show that he clearly hadn't hit it. Hotspot didn't show a mark, the

sound was clearly after the ball had gone and bat hitting pad and replays showed a gap between the ball and the bat.

Overwhelming evidence that he clearly was not out.

Yet the third umpire reviewed the evidence and decided not to overturn the decision of the on field umpire.

People have again used this as a stick to beat DRS with.

But in truth, this is simple human error.

The DRS did its job – it revealed

the decision was clearly incorrect. The thing at fault was not the technology, but the person using it.

It's the same as Adam Rant's big grumble that LBW decisions where a large chunk of the ball is clearly hitting the stumps can still go down as umpire's call.

It's not the technology that's wrong, it's the interpretation, in this case by the rule makers.

It is somewhat comforting to know that even with the introduction of technology we can still rely on a human to mess it up.

Non-league Football

LANCASHIRE Route to The Ageas Bowl

June 26 – Riverside: Lancashire 165-3, Durham 156-8
MITCHELL McCleneghan made an immediate impact on his t20 debut for Lancashire.

He took 3-35 as Durham narrowly failed to chase down a target of 164.

Lancashire opener Stephen Moore hammered 78 off 58 balls before he was run out, while ex-Hampshire star Simon Katich struck 43 not out off 25 deliveries on his t20 debut for the county.

July 1 – Old Trafford: Lancashire 155-6, Notts 159-6

MITCHELL McCleneghan produced a remarkable performance on his home t20 debut for Lancashire, but in a losing cause.

The Kiwi dismissed Notts' top three of Alex Hales, Michael Lumb and Riki Wessels – as well as dangerous David Hussey – en route to a career best 5-29 return.

But Hussey's 52 still helped Notts to victory at Old Trafford.

Lancashire had been 22-2 before being rescued by Steve Croft (52) and Simon Katich, whose 48 came off only 38 balls.

July 2 – Derby: Lancashire 151-8, Derbyshire 154-3

THE Red Rose county slumped to a second t20 defeat in as many days.

West Indian great Shivnarine Chanderpaul struck 87 to help Derbyshire to victory.

He was in early at No 3 after Kabir Ali had dismissed opener Chesney Hughes with the first ball of the hosts' reply.

Lancashire had slumped to 19-3 before Karl Brown's 50 off 39 balls took them to respectability, helped by Simon Katich (28) and Tom Brown (27).

July 5 – Headingley: Yorkshire 152-6, Lancashire 152-5

THE Roses clash ended in a dramatic tie, meaning Lancashire still only had one win from their first four games.

Batting second, Lancashire slipped to 118-5 chasing 153 for victory.

But Steve Croft (42no off 28 balls) and Kabir Ali (8no) added an unbroken 34 for the sixth wicket in a thrilling finale.

Australian Phil Jaques had earlier hit 66 in Yorkshire's total.

July 7 – Old Trafford: Lancashire 155-4, Leicestershire 151-7

KABIR Ali played a major role as Lancashire just avoided a third defeat in four t20 group matches.

With Greg Smith (84 off 56 balls) at the crease, Leicestershire were going well.

But he became one of Ali's three wickets (3-26) and Lancashire eventually sneaked home.

Earlier, Simon Katich again showed his t20 abilities in top scoring with an unbeaten 62 off 43 balls.

July 12 – Old Trafford: Lancashire 165-9, Derbyshire 153-6

LANCASHIRE again held their nerve to win a close game.

Stephen Moore's 74 off 42 balls – with five sixes and five fours – underpinned their 165-9 total.

With Wes Durston hitting 48 off 29 balls and Shivnarine Chanderpaul reaching 39, Derbyshire were well placed on 102-2.

But Mitchell McCleneghan then produced the decisive run out of Chanderpaul and Lancashire claimed their second home win on the bounce.

July 14 – Old Trafford: Lancashire 170-5, Durham 145-5

KABIR Ali claimed 3-30 – dismissing the top three of Phil Mustard, Mark Stoneman and Steve Borthwick – as Lancashire comfortably completed a double over Durham.

Karl Brown's 62 off 42 balls and another impressive knock from Simon Katich – 40 not out off 30 balls – had helped Lancashire post their highest total of the 2013 qualifying round.

July 23 – Leicester: Leicestershire 139, Lancashire 139-9

Lancashire were involved in a dramatic tie for the second time in their group qualifying games.

Kabir Ali's third three-wicket burst in the competition (3-23) helped dismiss the hosts for 139, Greg Smith (45) again top scoring.

Most Lancashire batsmen made a start but, with wicket-keeper Gareth Cross top scoring with 28, none were able to go on and produce a match-winning knock.

July 24 – Old Trafford: Yorkshire 124-8, Lancashire 127-2

A GREAT partnership of 88 between openers Stephen Moore and Tom Smith enabled Lancashire to stroll to victory.

Moore belted an unbeaten 66 off 35 balls while Smith struck 42 off 22 deliveries as the pair put on 88 in only 7.4 overs.

Mitchell McCleneghan (2-19) and Smith (2-21) had both earlier bowled tight four-over spells as the Tykes struggled.

July 28 – Trent Bridge: Notts 194-6, Lancashire 134

ALEX Hales and Graeme White combined to send Lancashire crashing to their heaviest defeat of the t20 campaign.

Hales blitzed six sixes in his 82 as Notts rattled up a great score, Kabir Ali conceding 49 runs off his four overs and Mitchell McCleneghan 41.

In reply, Stephen Moore was dismissed first ball before slow left-armed White bagged a career best 5-22.

Lancashire slumped to 95-8 before achieving a modicum of respectability.

KINGS OF

Amazing record of Hampshire's twenty20 heroes

IT IS one of the most remarkable runs in English domestic cricket history.

On July 18, 2010 Hampshire faced Sussex in their final t20 cup qualifying group game.

At the time, Hampshire had lost eight of their 15 matches and had yet to claim the top-four finish they needed to progress to the quarter-finals.

Thankfully, the Royals won that night.

And they have carried on winning almost ever since.

Including that game against Sussex, Hampshire have won 32 of their last 38 completed t20 matches.

After beating Sussex, they went on to lift the trophy for the first time – famously becoming the first county to win the competition on home soil.

Hampshire's stunning form continued in 2011, when they won 11 of their 13 completed group games.

They strolled past Durham in the quarter-final, only to lose in the last four on Finals Day at Edgbaston.

Undaunted, Hampshire claimed their second cup win in three seasons in 2012.

Winning five of seven completed group games – remember how much of a wash-out last summer was? – Hampshire produced a remarkable quarter-final success at Nottinghamshire to bag a third successive Finals Day appearance.

Victories over Somerset and Yorkshire saw them celebrating again.

Brave

This year, Hampshire have decided to only go with one overseas player, though competition rules allow two.

They made the brave decision not to include Australia's t20 captain George Bailey, instead choosing seam bowler Sohail Tanvir as their only foreign import.

In fairness, Hampshire do have former South African Test batsman Neil McKenzie playing as a Kolpak signing, while Zimbabwean Sean Ervine has been a regular ever since he made his Royals debut in 2005.

Both those players are highly experienced in t20 cricket, as they showed on Wednesday night when Hampshire finished their South Group programme with victory over Middlesex.

Ervine smashed a rapid 60 off 34 balls while McKenzie made a more sedate 47 not out off 37 deliveries.

That helped the Royals record their eighth win in nine completed group games this summer, the best record out of any county.

As a result, it guaranteed them a home tie in the quarter-finals.

And the draw will see Hampshire host Lancashire next Wednesday, therefore renewing acquaintances with two players who left the county at the end of last season.

Former Australian Test batsman Simon Katich played a key role in Hampshire winning the t20 last August, while pace bowler Kabir Ali has put previous injury problems behind

KEY MEN: From left: Michael Carberry, Neil McKenzie, Sean Ervine and Dimi Mascarenhas.



Simon Carter

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SPORTS EDITOR

him to emerge as a dangerous member of the Lancashire attack.

Lancashire only won five of their ten group games, twice being involved in ties, and Hampshire will start firm favourites. McKenzie will be crucial to their hopes.

He is averaging a remarkable 148 in the competition this season as a result of being dismissed just twice in seven innings.

The 37-year-old has emerged as Hampshire's answer to Australian Michael Bevan, who is remembered as being one of the best 'finishers' of an innings in international cricket history.

That was certainly the case last summer when McKenzie's superb knock helped Hampshire win their quarter-final at Trent Bridge.

Asked to chase 179 for victory, Hampshire looked down and out at 128-6 with only 32 balls remaining.

But McKenzie and Dimi Mascarenhas knocked off the runs, the Royals spectacularly winning off the last ball with McKenzie 79 not out off 49 balls.

It remains one of the most memorable innings in English t20 history given the circumstances.

Should Hampshire go on and win another t20 Cup – and with their recent history you cannot put it past them – it would be their sixth one-day piece of silverware in the last nine seasons.

No other county can come close to equalling that record in the same period.

Non-league Football

ENGLAND



And lest we forget, Hampshire are still in with a chance of retaining their 40-over crown as well.

They would take over as group leaders from Durham if they won their game in hand.

Outsiders

All these amazing one-day performances have come against a backdrop of continuing under-achievement in the blue riband event of county cricket, the LV= Championship.

Hampshire were relegated from the top flight of the four-day game in 2011 and last summer never really looked capable of bouncing straight back.

Though they got off to a good start this April, they are still outsiders to claim a top-two finish and are therefore likely to be play-

ing a third successive Second Division campaign in 2014.

Of course, everyone at The Ageas Bowl – from chairman Rod Bransgrove down – would love Hampshire to win the County Championship, a trophy they have not lifted since the 1970s.

But, in a way, the county's ongoing success story in one-day cricket – particularly t20 – is better for them.

After all, the one day games are the matches that bring in the bigger crowds.

Hampshire's recent t20 derby with Sussex saw more than 9,000 fans pack into The Ageas Bowl.

The county's other four home games all saw attendances over the 5,000 mark.

It hardly needs saying, but you do not get those sort of crowds in the County Championship.

t20 has been an enormous boost for the counties in terms of bringing in new supporters.

Hampshire are in a better position than some in that they also have permanent floodlights, meaning later starts – giving those leaving work or school extra time to get to the stadium.

Hampshire could win the County Championship this season, but the crowds for those four-day games would never be that high – nowhere near in the region of the 10,000 the Royals can realistically expect when they host Lancashire next Wednesday.

The ECB have played around with different t20 formats since the tournament started back in 2003.

Then, counties only played five group games in total.

It was quickly realised that more games were needed to meet demand.

So, by 2010, we had two qualifying groups where counties played 16 matches each.

Now we had gone too far the other way.

Sixteen, in this instance, was not sweet.

It was too many games shoehorned into too short a period a time.

After two years of that format, the ECB reduced the qualifying rounds to ten games per county in 2012.

Next year, it is changing again.

Though the precise format is unknown, group games will be spread out over a much larger period and be played predominantly on Fridays.

The t20 season could start sometime in late May and continue through to August, ahead of the quarter-finals and the ever-popular Finals Day.

Criticism

Hampshire t20 skipper Dimi Mascarenhas has already voiced his criticism of the changes.

He believes it will be tougher to attract quality overseas talent to take part in the tournament if it is spread out over several months rather than a 'block' period as has always been the case.

Not everyone at The Ageas Bowl share his concerns.

Commercial director Stuart Robertson is looking forward to more home games in 2014 – there should be a minimum of eight, compared to five this year – and also to the fact most will be held on Friday nights.

Hampshire's t20 attendances have been well up this season, with Robertson admitting there are several reasons for that.

They include better marketing by the county of the t20 games, better weather, fewer games than in the last two years, and Hampshire boasting a successful team comprising the classic mix of experienced heads and home-grown young talent.

I, like many others, was given my first taste of 'live' county cricket at a John Player Sunday League game in the early 1980s.

The JPL was, to my eyes, a successful format. It was a weekly event and everyone knew what day the games would be held on.

In recent years, the 40-over league has been all over the place – some games on a weekend, some in midweek.

It will be nice to introduce a league with a regular place in the weekly calendar.

Dimi Mascarenhas might not agree, but then he's not the one counting the extra supporters who are expected to come through the turnstiles ...

HAMPSHIRE Route to The Ageas Bowl

June 26 – Ageas Bowl: Surrey 139-6, Hampshire 144-5
THERE were four balls left when Adam Wheater hammered the six that got Hampshire's defence of the t20 cup off to a winning start.

Michael Carberry had started what was to prove a superb t20 campaign by hitting 60 off 45 balls against one of his former counties.

Neil McKenzie did his bit with an unbeaten 37 off 30 balls. Earlier, Danny Briggs (2-20) and David Griffiths (2-23) had sent down tight four-over spells with debutant Sohail Tanvir taking 1-39 off his four overs.

June 28 – Chelmsford: Essex 18-1, abandoned
ONLY 13 balls were managed before the rains came.

July 5 – Hove: Sussex 145-6, Hampshire 148-5

NEIL McKenzie produced a t20 batting masterclass to guide Hampshire to a Friday night derby victory over Sussex.

Hampshire were struggling on 99-5 – opener James Vince had gone first ball – when Adam Wheater walked out to partner the South African.

They put on a match-winning 49 for the sixth wicket, with Wheater contributing just 12 and McKenzie ending on 71 not out from 50 balls.

Sohail Tanvir had been expensive again, his four overs costing 47 runs, but home-grown trio Liam Dawson (2-16), Danny Briggs (2-19) and Chris Wood (1-22) all produced tight four-over spells.

July 12 – Ageas Bowl: Sussex 118-7, Hampshire 122-6

NEIL McKenzie (20no) hit a boundary off the last ball of the game as Hampshire made hard work of chasing down a small target.

On a night of tight bowling, Dimi Mascarenhas (2-19) and Sohail Tanvir (2-24) had put the brakes on Sussex early on.

Michael Carberry struck 41 off 38 balls in reply as Hampshire reached 59-0 off 7.3 overs.

But the hosts then became bogged down against Chris Liddle and Chris Nash, who sent down eight overs for 4-28 between them.

July 14 – Richmond: Middlesex 162-5, Hampshire 164-3

JAMES Vince and Michael Carberry ran riot as Hampshire romped to a seven-wicket success with almost five overs left.

Vince struck 84 off 49 balls while Carberry smote 43 off just 16 deliveries in an opening stand of 89 off just 6.4 overs.

David Malan's 77 had helped Middlesex to a respectable total.

July 19 – Oval: Surrey 126-6, Hampshire 127-3

CHRIS Wood (2-21) claimed the key wickets of Australian legend Ricky Ponting (3) and Azhar Mahmood (0) as Surrey were restricted to a below-par score.

Hampshire won with TEN balls left thanks to Sean Ervine (28no) and Liam Dawson (24no) after Jimmy Adams (30) and Michael Carberry (25) had given them a start.

July 21 – Ageas Bowl: Kent 143-8, Hampshire 135-8

HAMPSHIRE slipped to their only South Group loss of the campaign following a late batting collapse.

Thanks to Neil McKenzie (47), Michael Carberry (35) and Sean Ervine (27) they had reached 126-3 chasing 144 for victory.

Improbably, the Royals lost five wickets for eight runs to tumble to a shock defeat.

Sohail Tanvir had taken 3-29, his best t20 figures for Hampshire.

July 26 – Ageas Bowl: Essex 182-5, Hampshire 183-5

HAMPSHIRE'S experienced batsman again came good in a high-scoring success against Essex.

Owais Shah's 68 off 43 balls had helped the visitors post a very competitive total.

But Michael Carberry got Hampshire off to a good start with 54 off 41 balls.

Sean Ervine caned 36 off 23 balls and it was left to Neil McKenzie to see Hampshire home with an undefeated 29.

July 29 – Canterbury: Hampshire 185-6, Kent 123-9

HAMPSHIRE avenged their home defeat against Kent with a comprehensive victory at Canterbury.

Michael Carberry again showcased his superb t20 batting ability while Liam Dawson starred with bat and ball.

Carberry blitzed 83 off 56 balls against another of his former counties, an innings including 11 fours and a six.

Neil McKenzie hit an unbeaten 45 before Dawson came in late on to slam 17 off five balls.

Dimi Mascarenhas (2-21) then dismissed Kent openers Daniel Bell-Drummond and Fabian Cowdrey.

Dawson came on to take t20 career best figures of 4-16 as Kent collapsed.

July 31 – Ageas Bowl: Hampshire 190-3, Middlesex 182-7

SEAN Ervine blazed his first t20 half century of the summer with an unbeaten 60 off 34 balls with four sixes and four fours.

With the ultra consistent Neil McKenzie hitting an undefeated 47, Hampshire posted their highest score of the t20 campaign. Jimmy Adams added 43 off 29 balls.

Middlesex looked possible winners while Joe Denly (67) and Eoin Morgan (29) were at the crease. But Chris Wood (3-31) dismissed Denly and Hampshire eventually claimed their eighth win in nine completed group matches.

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Championship preview 2013/14 ... Championship preview

BARNSELEY

Manager: David Flitcroft
Position last season: 21st
Nickname: The Tykes
Ground: Oakwell (Capacity: 23,009)
Players in: Dale Jennings (Bayern Munich, £250,000), Chris O'Grady (Sheffield Wednesday, undisclosed), Christian Dibble (Bury, free), Wade Joyce (Sunderland, free), Lewin Nyatanga (Bristol City, free), John Cofie (Manchester United, free), John-Yves M'voto (Oldham, free)
Players out: Marlon Harewood, Matt Done, Rob Edwards, Stephen Foster, John Rooney, Lukas Lidakevicius, Toni Silva (all released)
Key man: Chris O'Grady
Chances: There is an air of optimism at Oakwell following Barnsley's strong finish that saw them escape relegation in May, but the Tykes will do well to steer clear of trouble again.

BIRMINGHAM

Manager: Lee Clark
Position last season: 12th
Nickname: Blues
Ground: St Andrew's (Capacity: 30,016)
Players in: Andrew Shinnie (Inverness, free), Olly Lee (Barnet, free), Darren Randolph (Motherwell, free), Lee Novak (Huddersfield, free), Neal Eardley (Blackpool, free), Tom Adeyemi (Norwich, free), Kyle Bartley (Swansea, loan), Dan Burn (Fulham, loan), Matt Green (Mansfield, free), Scott Allan (West Brom, loan), Shane Ferguson (Newcastle, loan)
Players out: Keith Fahey, Morgaro Gomis, Pablo Ibanez (all released), Adam Rooney (Oldham, free), Stephen Carr (retired), Curtis Davies (Hull, undisclosed), Steven Caldwell (Toronto, free), Deqwon Ebanks (Tamworth, free), Nathan Redmond (Norwich, undisclosed), Akwasi Asante (Shrewsbury, loan)
Key man: Andrew Shinnie
Chances: City's stand-out performers from last season - Curtis Davies, Nathan Redmond and Jack Butland - have departed while some of the more established and senior players are making way for young and hungry talent. A top-half finish and a possible play-off tilt would go down well.

BLACKBURN

Manager: Gary Bowyer
Position last season: 17th
Nickname: Rovers
Ground: Ewood Park (Capacity: 31,367)
Players in: Chris Taylor (Millwall, free), Simon Eastwood (Portsmouth, free), Alan Judge (Notts County, free), Todd Kane (Chelsea, loan), DJ Campbell (QPR, free), Alex Marrow (Crystal Palace, free), Matt Kilgallon (Sunderland, free), Tom Cairney (Hull, loan), Tommy Spurr (Doncaster, free)
Players out: David Goodwillie (Dundee United, loan), Micah Evans, Osayamen Osawe, Chris Dilo, Jamie MacLaren, Reece Hands, Peter Wylie, Ryan Humphreys, Danny Lavery, Nuno Gomes (all released), Martin Olsson (Norwich, undisclosed), Jack O'Connell (Rochdale, loan), Anton Forrester (Bury, loan), Nuno Henrique (Futebol Clube de Arouca, loan)
Key man: Jordan Rhodes
Chances: Gary Bowyer performed something of a revival at Ewood Park at the back end of last season and with some impressive-looking summer signings, a play-off charge is the minimum expectation.

BLACKPOOL

Manager: Paul Ince
Position last season: 15th
Nickname: The Seaside, the Tangerines
Ground: Bloomfield Road (Capacity: 17,338)
Players in: Gary MacKenzie (MK Dons, undisclosed), Bobby Grant (Rochdale, undisclosed), Jack Robinson (Liverpool, loan), Steven Davies (Bristol City, £500,000), Michael Chopra (Ipswich, free)
Players out: Alex Addai, Gerardo Bruna, Matthew Challoner, Adda Djeziri, Tiago Gomes, Elliott Grandin, Jamie Menagh, Curtis Thompson (all released), Neal Eardley (Birmingham, free), Ashley Eastham (Rochdale, free), Chris Ketting (York, loan), Kevin Phillips (Crystal Palace, free), Paul Bignot (Grimsby, free), Ian Evatt (Chesterfield, free)
Key man: Thomas Ince
Chances: Paul Ince has got a big job on his hands to keep Blackpool in the division, though expectations may still be high. Should be content with survival.

BOLTON

Manager: Dougie Freedman
Position last season: 7th
Nickname: The Trotters
Ground: Reebok Stadium (Capacity: 28,723)



CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE: Ex-Saints midfielder Richard Chaplow has signed for Millwall.



CHAMPIONSHIP CHALLENGE: Ex-Saints pair Sam Hoskins, left, and Dan Seaborne have signed for promoted Yeovil Town.

Players in: Marc Tierney (Norwich, free), Hayden White (Sheffield Wednesday, compensation), Alex Baptiste (Blackpool, free), Conor Wilkinson (Millwall, free), Rob Hall (West Ham, free), Jermaine Beckford (Leicester, undisclosed), Gary Fraser (Hamilton, free), Andre Moritz (Crystal Palace, free)
Players out: Adam Blakeman, Joe McKee, Lewis Fielding, Ben Hampson, Ben Dennis (all released), Marcos Alonso (Fiorentina, free), Jack Sampson (Morecambe, free), Alex McQuade (Shrewsbury, free), Joe McKee (Greenock Morton, free), Rob Lainton (Bury, free), Sam Ricketts (Wolves, free), Gregg Wylde (Aberdeen, free), Marvin Sordell (Charlton, loan)
Key man: Jermaine Beckford
Chances: After a late-season rally, Bolton

just missed out on the play-offs last term and they are a good bet to go one better this year. They have a fine young manager in Dougie Freedman and have quality in Jermaine Beckford and Chris Eagles.

BOURNEMOUTH

Manager: Eddie Howe
Position last season: 2nd in League One
Nickname: The Cherries
Ground: Dean Court (Capacity: 10,783)
Players in: Elliott Ward (Norwich, free), Ian Harte (Reading, free), Mohamed Coulibaly (Grasshopper Zurich, free), Andrew Surman (Norwich, loan)
Players out: Steve Fletcher (retired), Jonathan Meades (released), Charlie Sheringham (AFC Wimbledon, free), Frank



Demouge (Roda JC, free) Dan Strugnell (Havant & Waterlooville, free), Matt Tubbs (Rotherham, loan)
Key man: Brett Pitman
Chances: Eddie Howe transformed the Cherries' fortunes last season and he has only tweaked his squad ahead of his return to second tier management. Experienced defenders Elliott Ward and Ian Harte join an young and ambitious group that look well-set for life in the Sky Bet Championship.

BRIGHTON

Head coach: Oscar Garcia
Position last season: 4th
Nickname: The Seagulls
Ground: American Express Community Stadium (Capacity: 30,250)

Players in: Matthew Upson (Stoke, free), Adam Chicksen (MK Dons, compensation), Kemy Agustien (Swansea, free)
Players out: Stephen Dobbie (Crystal Palace, undisclosed), Gary Dicker, Marcos Painter, Vicente (all released), Torbjorn Agdestein (Inverness, free), Ryan Harley (Swindon, free)
Key man: Liam Bridcutt
Chances: Blew what was surely their best chance of promotion last season and then messily axed Gus Poyet, replacing him with little-known Spaniard Oscar Garcia. Mid-table beckons for the Seagulls.

BURNLEY

Manager: Sean Dyche
Position last season: 11th

2013/14 ... Championship preview 2013/14 ...



ON THE MOVE: Former Saints striker David McGoldrick has joined Ipswich on a free transfer this summer.



GOAL MACHINE: Charlie Austin, above, has left Burnley, but ex-Saint Joseph Mills, above, has joined the Clarets this summer.

Nickname: The Clarets
Ground: Turf Moor (Capacity: 22,546)
Players in: Tom Heaton (Bristol City, free), Joseph Mills (Reading, free), Alex Cisak (Oldham, free), Daniel Nizic (free), Nick Liversedge (Whitby Town, free), Scott Arfield (Huddersfield, free), Ryan Noble (Sunderland, free), David Jones (Wigan, free)
Players out: Brian Jensen, Jon Stewart, Aryn Williams, Joe Jackson, Dane Richards (all released), Alex MacDonald (Burton, free), Wes Fletcher (York, free), Lee Grant (Derby, free), Chris McCann (Wigan, free), Martin Paterson (Huddersfield, free), Adam Evans (Inverness, free), Shay McCarten (Accrington, free), George Porter (AFC Wimbledon, loan), Charlie Austin (QPR, undisclosed), Marvin Bartley (Leyton Orient, loan)
Chances: The Clarets could struggle after

goal machine Charlie Austin was sold this week.

CHARLTON

Manager: Chris Powell
Position last season: 9th
Nickname: The Addicks
Ground: The Valley (Capacity: 27,111)
Players in: Mark Gower (Swansea, free), Richard Wood (Coventry, free), Simon Church (Reading, free), Marvin Sordell (Bolton, loan)
Players out: Ricardo Fuller, Salim Kerkar, Yado Mambu, Matt Taylor, Bradley Wright-Phillips (all released), John Sullivan (Portsmouth, free), Scott Wagstaff (Bristol City, free), Danny Haynes (Notts County, free), David Button (Brentford, undisclosed), Michael Smith (AFC Wimbledon, loan)
Key man: Johnnie Jackson

Chances: An eight-game unbeaten run saw Charlton climb to a flattering ninth-placed finish but with little money to improve the lower reaches of the table this term.

DERBY

Manager: Nigel Clough
Position last season: 10th
Nickname: The Rams
Ground: Pride Park (Capacity: 33,597)
Players in: Lee Grant (Burnley, free), Chris Martin (Norwich, free), Johnny Russell (Dundee United, undisclosed), Craig Forsyth (Watford, undisclosed), Adam Smith (Tottenham, loan)
Players out: Gareth Roberts (Bury, free), Frank Fielding (Bristol City, undisclosed),

Ross Atkins (Alfreton, season-long loan), Conor Doyle (DC United, loan), Callum Ball (Torquay, loan), John Brayford (Cardiff City, £1.5m)

Key man: Jamie Ward
Chances: Last season was Derby's highest finish for six years as they ended the campaign 10th and seven points shy of the play-offs. Clough has strengthened this summer and a top-six spot is a realistic target.

DONCASTER

Manager: Paul Dickov
Position last season: 1st in League One
Nickname: Rovers
Ground: Keepmoat (Capacity: 15,231)
Players in: Marc De Val Fernandez (Real Madrid, free), Harry Forrester (Brentford,

compensation), Dean Furman (Oldham, free), Mark Duffy (Scunthorpe, undisclosed), Ross Turnbull (Chelsea, free), Bongani Khumalo (Tottenham, loan), Luke McCullough (Manchester United, free)

Players out: Jordan Ball, Patrick Mullen, Gary Woods, Martin Woods (all released), Lee Fowler (Kidderminster, free), Neil Sullivan (released), Tommy Spurr (Blackburn, free)
Key man: David Cotterill

Chances: Dickov remains a few players short as he rebuilds Rovers' squad with deals for further arrivals hinging on the ongoing talks regarding potential investment. It could be a season of struggle on their return to the second tier.

HUDDERSFIELD

Manager: Mark Robins
Position last season: 19th
Nickname: The Terriers
Ground: John Smith's Stadium (24,500)
Players in: Daniel Carr (Dulwich Hamlet, undisclosed), Jake Carroll (St Patrick's, undisclosed), Adam Hammill (Wolves, undisclosed), Jon Stead (Bristol City, free), Martin Paterson (Burnley, free), James Vaughan (Norwich, undisclosed), Cristian Lopez (Atletico Baleares, free), Jonathan Hogg (Watford, undisclosed)
Players out: Scott Arfield, Alan Lee (both released), Tom Clarke (Preston), Lee Novak (Birmingham, free), Josh Windass (Accrington, free)
Key man: James Vaughan
Chances: Huddersfield added more firepower to their squad this summer, but must also improve at the other end - only Bristol City conceded more goals last season - if they are to challenge for a top-half finish in boss Mark Robins' first full campaign in charge.

IPSWICH

Manager: Mick McCarthy
Position last season: 14th
Nickname: The Tractor Boys
Ground: Portman Road (Capacity: 30,311)
Players in: Cole Skuse (Bristol City, free), Jay Tabb (Reading, free), Daryl Murphy (Celtic, free), David McGoldrick (Nottingham Forest, free), Paul Anderson (Bristol City, swap deal), Dean Gerken (Bristol City, free), Frederic Veseli (Manchester United, free), Christophe Berra (Wolves, free), Ryan Tunnicliffe (Manchester United, loan), Jack Doherty (Waterford, undisclosed)
Players out: Arran Lee-Barrett, Jason Brown, Jack Ainsley, Cormac Burke, Ronan Murray, Joe Whight, (all released), Andy Drury (Crawley, free), Lee Martin (Millwall, free), Jay Emmanuel-Thomas (Bristol City, swap deal), Michael Chopra (Blackpool, free)
Key man: David McGoldrick
Chances: Mick McCarthy turned around struggling Ipswich's fortunes last season to finish in mid-table and, using his vast experience of the Championship, Town are likely to be one of several contenders for a play-off place this time around.

LEEDS

Manager: Brian McDermott
Position last season: 13th
Nickname: The Whites
Ground: Elland Road (Capacity: 37,697)
Players in: Matt Smith (Oldham, free), Luke Murphy (Crewe, undisclosed), Noel Hunt (free, Reading)
Players out: Leigh Bromby, Paul Connolly, Davide Somma, Paddy Kisnorbo, Paul Rachubka, Habib Habibou, Monty Gimpel, Sanchez Payne, Patrick Antelmi, Jordan Snodin (all released), Steve Morison (Millwall, loan)
Key man: Ross McCormack
Chances: Manager Brian McDermott steered Reading to the Premier League on a modest budget and will be expected to guide Leeds towards a play-off challenge in his first full season at Elland Road.

LEICESTER

Manager: Nigel Pearson
Position last season: 6th
Nickname: The Foxes
Ground: King Power Stadium (32,262)
Players in: Zoumana Bakayogo (Tranmere, free)
Players out: Conor Brennan, Steven Smith, Karlton Watson, Jide Maduako (all released), Joey Jones (Yeovil, free), Jermaine Beckford (Bolton, undisclosed), Conor Clifford (Southend, free)
Key man: Kasper Schmeichel
Chances: Automatic promotion was the aim 12 months ago but the Foxes only managed a play-off spot. The club's Thai owners will once again be expecting a top-two finish but financial fair play could make life difficult.
Continued on page 26

from page 25

MIDDLESBROUGH

Manager: Tony Mowbray
Position last season: 16th
Nickname: Boro
Ground: Riverside Stadium
Capacity: 34,988
Players in: Jozsef Varga (Debrecen, loan), Dean Whitehead (Stoke, free)
Players out: Julio Arca, Andre Bikey, Kieron Dyer, Stephen McManus, Merouane Zemmama (all released), Nicky Bailey (Millwall, free), Scott McDonald (Millwall, free)
Key man: Marvin Emnes
Chances: Boro's 2013 form was so bad it saw them drop from the top two in January into a relegation fight and Tony Mowbray will have to stop the rot. A play-off challenge will again be expected, but mid-table is probably more likely.

MILLWALL

Manager: Steve Lomas
Position last season: 20th
Nickname: The Lions
Ground: The Den
Capacity: 20,146
Players in: Jermaine Easter (Crystal Palace, free), Stephen Bywater (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Steve Morison (Leeds, loan), Lee Martin (Ipswich, free), Richard Chaplow (Southampton, free), Nicky Bailey (Middlesbrough, free), Scott McDonald (Middlesbrough, free)
Players out: Chris Taylor (Blackburn, free), Steve Mildenhall (Bristol Rovers, free), Tamika Mkandawire (Shrewsbury, free), Shaun Batt (Leyton Orient, free), Conor Wilkinson (Bolton, free), Therry Racon, Malik Taylor (all released)
Key man: Danny Shittu
Chances: Steve Lomas faces a tough task replacing long-serving boss Kenny Jackett and winning over the fans due to his West Ham connections. The Lions' four-year Championship stint could be coming to an end.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST

Manager: Billy Davies
Position last season: 8th
Nickname: The Reds
Ground: City Ground
Capacity: 30,603
Players in: Darius Henderson (Millwall, free), Gonzalo Jara Reyes, (West Brom, free) Eric Lichaj (Aston Villa, free), Jamie Paterson (Walsall, undisclosed), Dorus De Vries (Wolves, free), Djamel Abdoun (Olympiakos, £1.55m), Jamie Mackie (QPR, £1m)
Players out: David McGoldrick (Ipswich, free), Josh Thomas, Elliott Ackroyd, Eurico Sebastiao, Jordan Palmer-Samuels (all released), Matt Regan (Tamworth, free), Lewis McGugan (Watford, free), Dimitar Evtimov (Nuneaton, loan)
Key man: Chris Cohen
Chances: Davies performed heroics on his return as Forest defied the odds to mount a play-off challenge. The Scot now has a pre-season and a full campaign to plan a promotion tilt and the Reds will go close to a top-two finish.

QPR

Manager: Harry Redknapp
Position last season: 20th in Premier League
Nickname: Rangers, The Hoops
Ground: Loftus Road
Capacity: 18,360
Players in: Danny Simpson (Newcastle, free), Richard Dunne (Aston Villa, free), Karl Henry (Wolves, undisclosed), Charlie Austin (QPR, undisclosed)
Players out: Tal Ben Haim, Radek Cerny, Freddy Champion, Adam Francis, Rob Hulse, Louis Parmenter, Tommaso Trani, Jay Bothroyd, Djibril Cisse (all released), DJ Campbell (Blackburn, free), Troy Hewitt (Walsall, free), Chris Samba (Anzhi Makhachkala, undisclosed), Jamie Mackie (Nottingham Forest, £1m)
Key man: Charlie Austin
Chances: Rangers undoubtedly have the talent to bounce straight back from relegation, but they will need the appetite for the battle ahead.

READING

Manager: Nigel Adkins
Position last season: 19th in Premier League
Nickname: The Royals
Ground: The Madejski Stadium
Capacity: 24,161
Players in: Wayne Bridge (Manchester City, free), Royston Drenthe (Alania Vladikavkaz, free), Danny Williams (Hoffenheim, undisclosed)
Players out: Nick Bignall, Charlie Losasso, Angus MacDonald, Nicky Shorey, Joshua Webb, Brett Williams, Noel Hunt, (all released), Simon Church (Charlton, free), Joseph Mills (Burnley, free), Jay Tabb (Ipswich, free), Nick Arnold (Wycombe, loan), Ian Harte (Bournemouth, free), Josh Sharma (Oxford, free), *Continued on facing page*

Big-game experience means Andrew Surman is t

EX-SAINT BACK

FORMER Saints star Andrew Surman has set his sights high after returning to Bournemouth for a second loan spell.

The Norwich City midfielder this week became Eddie Howe's fourth summer addition when he agreed terms on a season-long deal.

Surman made 26 appearances for Cherries at the start of 2005-06 after signing temporarily from Saints.

The 26-year-old, who joined Wolves for £1.2million in 2009, helped Norwich win the Championship during his first season at Carrow Road in 2011.

However, despite featuring prominently for the Canaries in the Premier League in 2011-12, Surman was restricted by injury to just seven appearances last term.

Asked whether he felt Cherries could match Norwich and Saints' achievement of back-to-back promotions from League One to the top flight, Surman said: "Anything can happen."

"When I first joined Norwich, people were saying they had done well to get out of League One and were asking whether we would settle for finishing just above the relegation zone. It shows what can happen."

"There are some good teams in the league but the best teams don't always necessarily win the league or get promoted."

"If you can gain a bit of momentum, you never know where it might take you. You have to go into it positively and aim for the top."

"When we won the title with Norwich, we had a great team spirit and a winning mentality."

"Those are the key things with regards to doing well in the Championship."

"There is a good group of lads here and the spirit seems good so you are halfway there. If you can take that on to the pitch and put together a run of wins, that breeds confidence."

Signed by Sean O'Driscoll during his first loan spell, Surman netted six goals and played alongside current boss Howe.

He made such a good impression that he was quickly recalled to St Mary's when George Burley arrived in December 2005, and was handed his Saints senior debut at home to Crystal Palace in January 2006.

He went on to establish himself in the Championship before being sold in the summer of 2009 to Wolves while Saints' parent company Southampton Leisure Holdings were in administration.

"I was only 18 and first-team football was quite new to me," said Surman of his first spell at Cherries.

"We had a good manager in Sean O'Driscoll and some decent players but the financial side wasn't great."

That seems to have changed now and everyone is talking about them having a go this season. It can only be positive.

"I played with the manager when I was here on loan and he has gone on to bigger and better things."

"You have got to have that respect for the manager and I have huge respect for him. I am looking forward to working with him."

Surman added: "Bournemouth have had a good couple of years and things seem to be changing for the better with new ownership coming in and a bit of money ploughed into the club. It is looking bright."

Howe, meanwhile, believes Surman's big-game experience will benefit Cherries as they bid to adjust to life in the Championship.

Howe said: "We are really pleased to have brought in someone of Andrew's quality."

"He has been very successful in the Championship and the Premier League and has now got a wealth of experience behind him."

"He will be versatile for us because he can play anywhere across midfield."

"He is very comfortable on the ball and fits in with our style of play."

"He scores great goals from distance so, hopefully, he can do that for us."

Howe added: "I watched him a lot when he was in the Championship with Norwich and he has experience of playing in the big games and the big occasions."

"He is determined to do well in his career and he will fit into the squad really well."

"I am sure the lads will take to him very quickly."



LEAGUE ONE PREVIEW - SEE PAGES 24 & 25

the perfect Cherries pick for manager Eddie Howe

ON SOUTH COAST

Matt's not in boss's team plan

MANAGER Eddie Howe admitted he had been unable to offer Matt Tubbs regular first-team football after allowing the striker to join League 1 newcomers Rotherham on loan.

The Verwood-raised frontman ended weeks of speculation over his future by sealing a six-month switch to the League One outfit.

Tubbs, who had been heavily linked with a move to the Millers, reunites with long-time admirer Steve Evans, the Rotherham boss who managed him during a successful spell together at Crawley Town.

After becoming Cherries' record signing for a reported £800,000 in January 2012, Tubbs saw his opportunities restricted as he fell down the Dean Court pecking order following the arrivals of Lewis Grabban and Brett Pitman.

The 29-year-old scored six goals while being limited to just six starts in his 31 League One appearances during Cherries' promotion campaign last term.

That was in stark contrast to his form at Crawley after joining the Sussex club from Salisbury City in the summer of 2010.

Tubbs banged in 40 goals in all competitions in his first season at Crawley as the club romped to the Conference title as well as reaching the fifth round of the FA Cup.

The following season, he had scored 18 league and cup goals by

the end of January – including FA Cup winners at Championship pair Bristol City and Hull City – prior to moving to Cherries.

Howe said: "I am sure Steve Evans is a big admirer of Tubbsy for the work he did for him at Crawley and we felt, with our squad, we just couldn't guarantee Tubbsy football."

"There is certainly a desire from the player to play regularly and at this stage of his career, he wanted that and we couldn't guarantee it, so it works for both parties."

"He gets football and a chance to re-establish himself and get goals."

Howe added: "He certainly goes to Rotherham with our best wishes and I am sure he will score goals. From our perspective, we only wish Matty well."

"He has been brilliant for this football club in the time he has been here and he was a key player for us last season."

Howe has a squad which includes attacking players Pitman, Grabban, Wes Thomas, Mohamed Coulibaly, Jayden Stockley and injury victim Josh McQuoid.

Evans has claimed the Millers had agreed to get first option on buying Tubbs – who has two years remaining on his Cherries contract – at the end of his loan spell in January.

Tubbs said: "In recent weeks, I have had several opportunities to join other top League One clubs but I have kept my word to the gaffer in that if I moved clubs, my first choice was Rotherham United."

Mikkel Andersen (Randers, free), Ryan Edwards (Perth Glory, loan), Daniel Carrico (Sevilla, loan), Michael Hector (Aberdeen, six-month loan)
Key man: Adam Le Fondre

Chances: Nigel Adkins has added some quality to his squad rather than seen it decimated after relegation so the Royals should have every chance of mounting a sustained promotion tilt.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

Manager: Dave Jones
Position last season: 18th
Nickname: The Owls
Ground: Hillsborough

Capacity: 39,812
Players in: Jacques Maghoma (Burton, free), Jeremy Helan (Manchester City, undisclosed)
Players out: Julian Bennett (Southend, free), Nejc Pecnik, Nicky Weaver (all released), Bastien Hery (Rochdale, free), Chris O'Grady (Barnsley, undisclosed), Stephen Bywater (Millwall, free), Hayden White (Bolton, compensation), Chris Lines

Key man: Jacques Maghoma
Chances: The Owls found some of their best form towards the end of the last campaign, ensuring another year in the Championship with a last-day win over Middlesbrough, but face an equally challenging season ahead on a limited playing budget.

WATFORD

Manager: Gianfranco Zola
Position last season: 3rd
Nickname: The Hornets
Ground: Vicarage Road

Capacity: 17,477
Players in: Uche Ikepeazu (Reading, free), Lewis McGugan (Nottingham Forest, free), Iriney Santos (Granada, loan), Almen Abdi (Udinese, undisclosed), Marco Cassetti (Udinese, undisclosed), Cristian Battocchio (Udinese, undisclosed), Gabriele Angella (Udinese, undisclosed), Marco Davide Faraoni (Udinese, undisclosed), Diego Fabbrini (Udinese, undisclosed), Javier Acuna (Udinese, undisclosed), Daniel Pudil (Granada, undisclosed), Ikechi Anya (Granada, undisclosed), Reece Brown (Manchester United, free)

Players out: Mark Yeates (Bradford, free), Prince Buaben, Piero Mingola, Aaron Tumwa, Stephan Hamilton-Forbes (all released), Chris Iwelumo (Scunthorpe, free), Jack Bonham (Brentford, free), Stephen McGinn (Sheffield United, free), Craig Forsyth (Derby, undisclosed), Britt Assombalonga (Peterborough, undisclosed), Jonathan Hogg (Huddersfield, undisclosed), Carl Dickinson (Port Vale, undisclosed)

Key man: Almen Abdi
Chances: Last season's loan players, excluding star performers Matej Vydra and Nathaniel Chalobah, have returned on permanent deals with the addition of further impressive signings. Expect the Hornets to be there or thereabouts once again.

WIGAN

Manager: Owen Coyle
Position last season: 18th in Premier League
Nickname: Latics

Ground: DW Stadium (Capacity: 25, 133)
Players in: Chris McCann (Burnley, free), Stephen Crainey (Blackpool, free), Thomas Rogne (Celtic, free), James Perch (Newcastle, undisclosed), Scott Carson (Bursaspor, free), Grant Holt (Norwich, undisclosed), Marc-Antoine Fortune (West Brom, free), Juan Carlos Garcia (Olimpia, free)

Players out: Antolin Alcaraz, David Jones (Burnley, free), Franco Di Santo, Albert Crusat, Adrian Lopez, Ronnie Stam, Filip Orsula, Callum Morris, Ryan Watson (all released), Mauro Boselli (Club Leon, undisclosed), Maynor Figueroa (Hull, free), Arouna Kone (Everton, undisclosed)

Key man: Grant Holt
Chances: There will be plenty of pressure on new boss Owen Coyle to make sure Wigan bounce straight back to the Premier League. They have the players to do it, but could be distracted by the Europa League.

YEovil

Manager: Gary Johnson
Position last season: 4th in League One (promoted via play-offs)

Nickname: The Glovers
Ground: Huish Park (Capacity: 9,665)
Players in: Joel Grant (Wycombe, free), Sam Hoskins (Southampton, free), Joey Jones (Leicester, free), Kieffer Moore (Dorchester, undisclosed), Michael Ngoo (Liverpool, season-long loan), Billy Clifford (Chelsea, loan), Alan Tate (Swansea, loan), Dan Seaborne (Southampton, free)

Players out: Richard Hinds (Bury, free), Gavin Williams (Woking, free), Dominic Blizzard (Plymouth, free)

Key man: Paddy Madden
Chances: The relegation favourites' survival chances may well depend on how well last season's stars Paddy Madden, Marek Stech and Sam Foley adapt to the second tier. You certainly can't rule out little old Yeovil upsetting the odds, again.

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BRADFORD

Manager: Phil Parkinson
Position last season: 7th in League Two, play-off winners
Nickname: The Bantams
Ground: Coral Windows Stadium/Valley Parade
Capacity: 25,136
Players in: Jason Kennedy (Rochdale, free), Mark Yeates (Watford, free), Raffaele De Vita (Swindon, free)
Players out: Dean Overson, Steve Williams, Adam Baker, Zavon Hines (all released), Matt Duke Northampton, free), Will Atkinson (Southend, free)
Key man: Andrew Davies
Chances: Will be looking to maintain their momentum from last season and if they get off to a good start, with their big crowd behind them, Bradford should be looking up the table at a possible play-off challenge

BRENTFORD

Manager: Uwe Rosler
Position last season: 3rd
Nickname: The Bees
Ground: Griffin Park
Capacity: 12,300
Players in: Jack Bonham (Watford, free), Jake Bidwell (Everton, undisclosed), George Saville (Chelsea, loan), Alan McCormack (Swindon, free), Will Grigg (Walsall, compensation), Martin Fillo (FC Viktoria Plzen, loan), Javi Venta (Villareal, free), Jack Uttridge (Histon, free), Ben Nugent (Cardiff, loan), Conor McAleny (Everton, loan), David Button (Charlton, undisclosed)
Players out: Antoine Gounet, Stefan Tomasevic, Max Herbert, Joe Maloney, Myles Hippolyte, Sam Griffiths, Leon Redwood (all released), Antonio German (Gillingham, compensation), Harry Forrester (Doncaster, compensation), Simon Moore (Cardiff, undisclosed)
Key man: Clayton Donaldson
Chances: The Bees are determined to put last season's near-miss behind them and, with the squad already looking stronger despite the loss of Harry Forrester, they should be in the promotion mix again come May.

BRISTOL CITY

Head coach: Sean O'Driscoll
Position last season: 24th in Championship
Nickname: The Robins
Ground: Ashton Gate
Capacity: 21,501
Players in: Jordan Wynter (Arsenal, free), Aden Flint (Swindon, undisclosed), Derrick Williams (Aston Villa, free), Frank Fielding (Derby, undisclosed), Jay Emmanuel-Thomas (Ipswich, swap deal), Scott Wagstaff (Charlton, free), Elliot Parish (Cardiff, free)
Players out: Mark Wilson, Dean Gerken (Ipswich, free), Lewis Carey, Brian Howard, Matthew Bates (all released), Cole Skuse (Ipswich, free), Richard Foster (Rangers, free), Jon Stead (Huddersfield, free), Tom Heaton (Burnley, free), Lewin Nyatanga (Barnsley, free), Paul Anderson (Ipswich, swap deal), Steven Davies (Blackpool, £500,000)
Key man: Jay Emmanuel-Thomas
Chances: After a nightmare 2012/13 there is cause for optimism around Ashton Gate. Eleven players may have departed after relegation but their replacements fit the Sean O'Driscoll bill. Expect a stylish, possession-based team to be challenging at the top if the Robins' strikers step up to the mark.

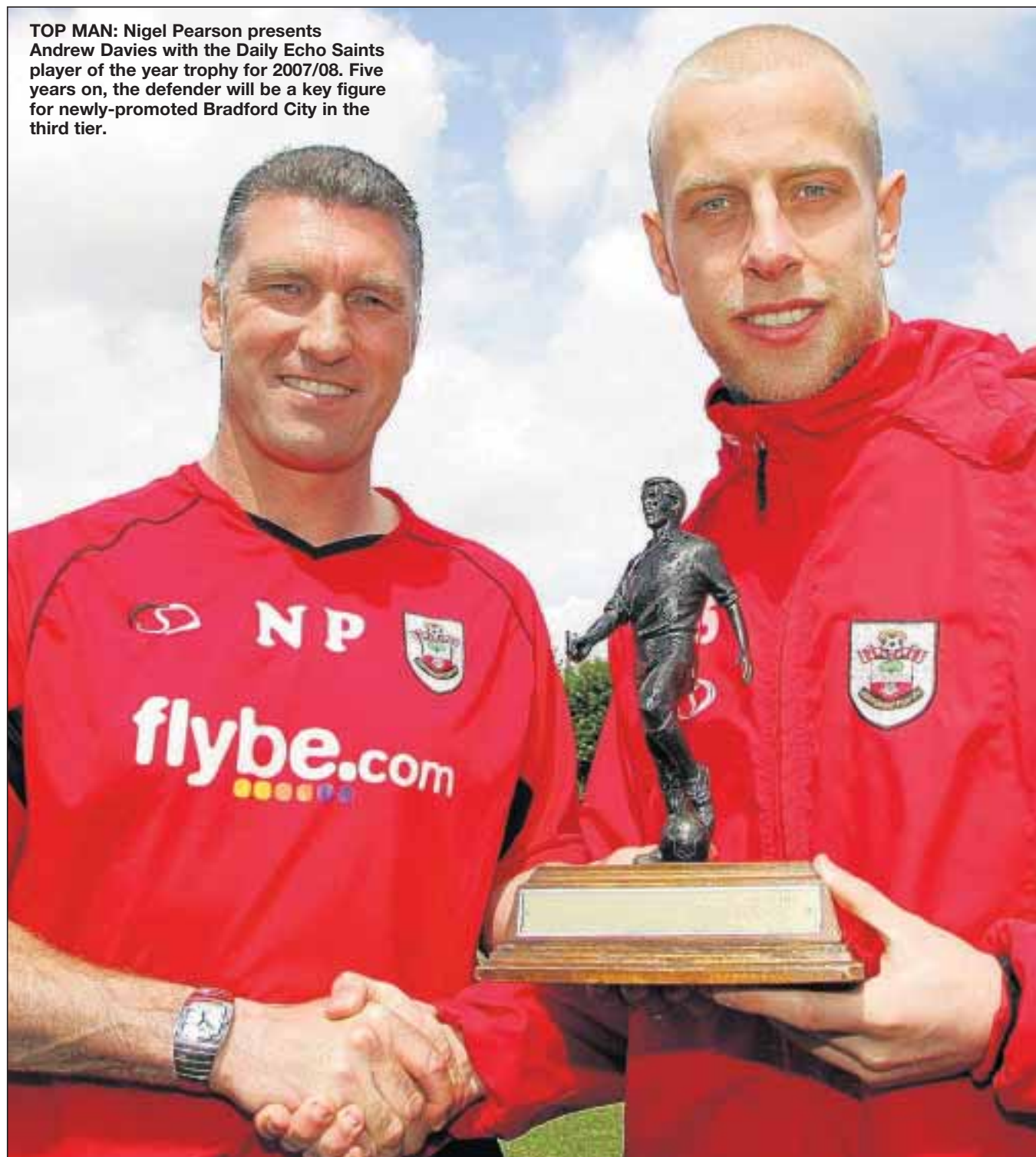
CARLISLE

Manager: Greg Abbott
Position last season: 17th
Nickname: The Cumbrians
Ground: Brunton Park
Capacity: 18,202
Players in: David Amoo (Tranmere, free), Josh Gillies (Gateshead, free), Reece James (Manchester United, loan)
Players out: Peter Murphy, Rory Loy, Mathieu Manset, Jon-Paul McGovern, Frank Simek, Tony Caig (all released), Andy Welsh (Scunthorpe, free), Adam Collin (Rotherham, free)
Key man: Lee Miller
Chances: Carlisle under-achieved last season. The Cumbrians are capable of beating anybody, particularly at Brunton Park, and manager Greg Abbott is under pressure to establish a level of consistency needed to challenge in the top half of the table.

COLCHESTER

Manager: Joe Dunne

TOP MAN: Nigel Pearson presents Andrew Davies with the Daily Echo Saints player of the year trophy for 2007/08. Five years on, the defender will be a key figure for newly-promoted Bradford City in the third tier.



Position last season: 20th
Nickname: The U's
Ground: Weston Homes Community Stadium
Capacity: 10,084

Players in: Craig Eastmond (Arsenal, free), Mason Spence (MK Dons, free), Sanchez Watt (Arsenal, free), Danie Pappoe (Chelsea, six-month loan), Sam Walker (Chelsea, six-month loan), Ryan Dickson (Saints, free)
Players out: Jackson Ramm (released), John White (Southend, free), Jack Compton (Hartlepool, free), John-Joe O'Toole (Bristol Rovers, undisclosed)
Key man: Sanchez Watt
Chances: Colchester narrowly survived the drop last term and can expect to be facing another relegation scrap in 2013/14 with eyes hopefully on a mid-table finish.

COVENTRY

Manager: Steven Pressley

Position last season: 15th
Nickname: Sky Blues
Ground: Groundsharing at Northampton's Sixfields Stadium
Capacity: 7,653

Players in: Jordan Stewart, Stephen Elliott, Danny Philliskirk, Shaun Jeffers, Will Roberts, Josh Ruffels, Joe Henderson, David Bell (all released), Cody McDonald (Gillingham, free), Nathan Cameron (Bury, free), Richard Wood (Charlton, free), Josh Ruffels (Oxford, free)
Key man: Leon Clarke
Chances: It has been a turbulent summer having spent it in administration and under a transfer embargo while also announcing a groundshare with Northampton, and a tough season is likely to await the Sky Blues on the pitch.

CRAWLEY

Manager: Richie Barker

Position last season: 10th
Nickname: The Red Devils
Ground: Broadfield Stadium
Capacity: 5,996
Players in: Andy Drury (Ipswich, free), James Hurst (West Brom, free)

Players out: Shaun Cooper, Lateef Elford-Alliyu (both released), Matt Sparrow (Scunthorpe, free), Richard Brodie (Gateshead, free), David Hunt (Oxford, free), Mustapha Dumbuya (Notts County, free)
Key man: Billy Clarke
Chances: Fell short of the play-offs last term and, despite their big ambitions, with little in the way of investment over the summer mid-table beckons again for the men from Sussex.

CREWE

Manager: Steve Davis
Position last season: 13th
Nickname: Alex, the Railwaymen

Ground: Gresty Road
Capacity: 10,153
Players in: Vadaine Oliver (Lincoln, undisclosed), Thierry Aude (Macclesfield, undisclosed), Lee Molyneux (Accrington, free), Anthony Grant (Stevenage, free)
Players out: Andy White, Paris Bateman, Brendon Daniels, Harry Clayton (all released), Luke Murphy (Leeds, undisclosed)
Key man: Max Clayton
Chances: Lost another of their academy gems when Luke Murphy switched to Leeds but have plenty more promising prospects to keep them away from relegation trouble.

GILLINGHAM

Manager: Martin Allen
Position last season: 1st in League Two
Nickname: The Gills
Ground: Priestfield Stadium
Capacity: 11,582
Players in: Amine Linganzi (Accrington, free),

... LEAGUE 1 PREVIEW 2013/14 ... LEAGUE 1 PREVIEW



NEW CLUB: Ex-Saint Ben Reeves, seen here scoring at Stevenage last season, has joined League 1 club MK Dons.



NEW CHALLENGE: Ex-Saint Ryan Dickson, right.

Antonio German (Brentford, compensation), Adebayo Akinfenwa (Northampton, free), Cody McDonald (Coventry, free)
Players out: Lewis Montrose (York, free), Jack Evans (Tamworth, free), Andy Frampton (AFC Wimbledon, free)
Key man: Stuart Nelson
Chances: Gillingham dominated League Two last term as they scooped the title and will be looking to finish in the top half of League One, with one eye on a potential play-off spot amid a competitive division.

LEYTON ORIENT

Manager: Russell Slade
Position last season: 7th
Nickname: The O's
Ground: Brisbane Road
Capacity: 9,271

Players in: Jake Larkins (West Ham, free), Shaun Batt (Millwall, free) Yohann Lasimant (unattached, free), Marvin Bartley (Burnley,

loan), Johnny Gorman (Wolves, free)
Players out: Lee Butcher, Lee Cook, Charlie MacDonald, Leon McSweeney, Martin Rowlands (all released), Jimmy Smith (Stevenage, free), Michael Symes (Burton, free), Afolabi Obafemi (Dagenham, free), Anthony Griffith (Port Vale, free)
Key man: Kevin Lisbie
Chances: Flirted with the play-offs last season but that looks an over-achievement. Russell Slade always has a decent first XI but there is little depth with injuries always likely to cost them.

MK DONS

Manager: Karl Robinson
Position last season: 8th
Nickname: The Dons
Ground: stadium:mk
Capacity: 22,000
Players in: Patrick Bamford (Chelsea, loan), Ben Reeves (Southampton, free), Jason



RELEASED: Ex-Saint Ryan Doble has left Shrewsbury.

Banton (Crystal Palace, loan), Lee Hodson (Watford, free)
Players out: Mathias Kouo-Doumbe (released), Ryan Lowe (Tranmere, free), Gary MacKenzie (Blackpool, undisclosed), Adam Chicksen (Brighton, compensation)
Key man: Stephen Gleeson
Chances: Injuries to key players hit the Dons hard last season. If they can avoid such misfortune this time round then expect them to be challenging for promotion.

NOTTS COUNTY

Manager: Chris Kiwomya
Position last season: 12th
Nickname: The Magpies
Ground: Meadow Lane
Capacity: 20,229
Players in: Malcolm Melvin (Aston Villa, free), Andy Haworth (Rochdale, free), Mustapha Dumbuya (Crawley, free), David Bell (Coventry, free), Danny Haynes (Charlton,

free), Mark Fotheringham (Ross County, free), Adam Coombes (Chelsea, free)
Players out: Julian Kelly, Neal Bishop, Hamza Bencherif, Liam Mitchell, Jake Wholey (all released), Alan Judge (Blackburn, free), Jeff Hughes (Fleetwood, free)
Key man: Danny Haynes
Chances: Kiwomya has put his stamp on the squad this summer but it remains to be seen how Notts cope with the loss of key players such as Judge, Bishop and Hughes. Just like last season, the play-offs will probably be just beyond them.

OLDHAM

Manager: Lee Johnson
Position last season: 19th
Nickname: The Latics
Ground: Boundary Park
Capacity: 10,638
Players in: Jonson Clarke-Harris (Peterborough, undisclosed), James Dayton,

(Kilmarnock, free), Korey Smith (Norwich, free), Charlie MacDonald (Leyton Orient, free), Mark Oxley (Hull, season-long loan), Anton Rodgers (Brighton, free), Edijs Joksts (FC Jurmala, free), Sidney Schmeltz (SC Veendam, free)

Players out: Robbie Simpson, Dean Bouzanis, Lee Croft, Alex Cisak, Dan Taylor, Liam Jacob (all released), Connor Hughes (Hyde, free), Matt Smith (Leeds, free), Dean Furman (Doncaster, free), Jean-Yves M'Voto (Barnsley, free)

Key man: Jose Baxter

Chances: The Football League's youngest manager steered Oldham away from the League One drop zone at the end of last year after their FA Cup heroics. Johnson knows he faces a similar task in his first full season in charge.

PETERBOROUGH

Manager: Darren Ferguson
Position last season: 22nd in Championship
Nickname: The Posh
Ground: London Road
Capacity: 14,640
Players in: Jack Payne (Gillingham, undisclosed), Charlie Horton (Unattached), **Players out:** Jonson Clarke-Harris (Oldham, undisclosed), George Boyd (Hull, free), Dwight Gayle (Crystal Palace, undisclosed).
Key man: Jack Payne
Chances: The futures of a handful of players remain undecided but despite that - along with the departures of Boyd and Gayle - Posh should still be too strong for most in League One and an immediate return to the Championship appears a good bet.

PORT VALE

Manager: Micky Adams
Position last season: 3rd in League Two
Nickname: The Valiants
Ground: Vale Park
Capacity: 19,052
Players in: Kaïd Mohamed (Cheltenham, free), Gavin Tomlin (Southend, free), Chris Robertson, (Preston, free) Anthony Griffith (Leyton Orient, free), Carl Dickinson (Watford, undisclosed)
Players out: Darren Purse, Clayton McDonald, Kingsley James, Calvin Andrew (all released), John McCombe (Mansfield, free), Sam Morsy (Chesterfield, compensation), Ashley Vincent (Cheltenham, free)
Key man: Tom Pope
Chances: Adams is still targeting defenders as pre-season injuries grip his squad ahead of the campaign. Vale appear well-equipped in attack and keeping Pope this summer was a must but they still might find the step up a little tough.

PRESTON

Manager: Simon Grayson
Position last season: 14th
Nickname: The Lilywhites
Ground: Deepdale
Capacity: 23,408
Players in: Tom Clarke (Huddersfield, free), Chris Humphrey (Motherwell, free), Kevin Davies (Bolton, free)
Players out: Luke Foster (released), Chris Robertson (Port Vale, free), Andy Procter (Bury, free), Ben Davies (York, loan)
Key man: Nicky Wroe
Chances: Fancied by some to be an outside chance for automatic promotion under Simon Grayson, who has led Blackpool, Leeds and Huddersfield in to the second tier, North End will need to score more goals if they are to realise that ambition.

ROTHERHAM

Manager: Steve Evans
Position last season: 2nd in League Two
Nickname: The Millers
Ground: New York Stadium
Capacity: 12,000
Players in: Joe Skarz (Bury, free), Richard Brindley (Chesterfield, free), Adam Collin (Carlisle, free), David Worrall (Bury, undisclosed), Danny Hylton (Aldershot, free), Robert Milsom (Aberdeen, free), Michael Tidser (Morton, £50,000), Matt Tubbs (Cherries, loan)
Players out: Andy Warrington, Alec Denton (both released), Ian Sharps (Burton, free), Nicky Hunt (Accrington, free), Dale Tonge (Torquay, free), Johnny Mullins (Oxford, undisclosed)
Key man: Michael O'Connor
Chances: The Millers will fancy their chances of producing another promotion push after finishing second in League Two. Steve Evans has a healthy budget but expect them to fall short of the play-offs.

SHEFFIELD UNITED

Manager: David Weir
Position last season: 5th
Nickname: The Blades
Ground: Bramall Lane
Capacity: 32,702
Players in: Fabian Brandy (Walsall, free), Stephen McGinn (Watford, free), Sean McGinty (Manchester United, free), Jasper Johns (Everton, free), Lyle Taylor (Falkirk, undisclosed), Connor Coady (Liverpool, loan)
Players out: Barry Robson (Aberdeen, free), Leccsinel Jean-Francois, Matty Harriott, Danny Coyne (all released), Dave Kitson (Oxford, free), Jordan Chapell (Torquay, free)
Key man: Kevin McDonald
Chances: Blades fans will want to avoid another play-off following two successive failures, but asking new boss David Weir to steer the club to automatic promotion in his first season as a manager and on a limited budget is a tall order.

SHREWSBURY

Manager: Graham Turner
Position last season: 16th
Nickname: The Shrews
Ground: Greenhous Meadow
Capacity: 9,875
Players in: Alex McQuade (Bolton, free), Dave Winfield (Wycombe, free), Tamika Mikandawire (Millwall, free), Akwasi Asante (Birmingham, one-month loan), John Marsden (Stoke, free)
Players out: Matt Richards, Marvin Morgan (Plymouth, free), Mark Wright, Rob Purdie, Ryan Doble, Jermaine Grandison (all released), Asa Hall (Oxford, six-month loan)
Key man: Jon Taylor
Chances: Shrewsbury are facing another season of struggle in League One having released some big-name players and failed to really replace them with quality.

STEVENAGE

Manager: Graham Westley
Position last season: 18th
Nickname: Boro
Ground: Broadhall Way
Capacity: 6,546
Players in: Luke Jones (Mansfield, free), Oumare Tounkara (Bristol Rovers, free), Sam Wedgbury (Macclesfield, free), Simon Heslop (Oxford, free), Jordan Burrow (Morecambe, free), Jimmy Smith (Leyton Orient, free)
Players out: Miguel Comminges, Andy Iro, Bondz N'Gala (all released), Patrick Agyemang (Portsmouth, free), Mark Roberts (Fleetwood, free), Anthony Grant (Crewe, free)
Key man: James Dunne
Chances: Westley has set about rebuilding the squad for his third stint in charge at Broadhall Way, but it is hard to imagine Boro troubling the promotion pack this season.

SWINDON

Manager: To be appointed
Position last season: 6th
Nickname: The Robins
Ground: County Ground
Capacity: 15,728
Players in: Jack Barthram (Tottenham, free), Nathan Byrne (Tottenham, free), Alex Pritchard (Tottenham, season-long loan), Alex Smith (Fulham, free), Grant Hall (Tottenham, season-long loan), Massimo Luongo (Tottenham, season-long loan), Ryan Mason (Tottenham, season-long loan), Tijane Reis (GD Chaves, free), Ryan Harley (Brighton, free), Tyrell Belford (Liverpool, free)
Players out: Gary Roberts, (Chesterfield, free), Joe Devera, (Portsmouth, free), Aden Flint, (Bristol City, undisclosed fee), Alan McCormack (Brentford, free), Simon Ferry, Tommy Miller, Chris Smith (all released), Raffaele De Vita (Bradford, free), James Collins (Hibernian, £200,000)
Key man: Nathan Thompson
Chances: Shorn of a number of

LEAGUE 2 PREVIEW 2013/14 ... LEAGUE 2 PREVIEW

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SPORTS EDITOR

It seems barely believable that four years ago Saints were preparing to play in the third tier of the English league for the first time in almost 50 years.

At the same time, Portsmouth were gearing up for their seventh successive Premier League campaign.

Hampshire's top dogs? Well, in terms of league position – but not average attendances, stadium or club infrastructure – there was only one answer.

Now Saints are getting ready for their second successive Premier League season while Portsmouth, for the first time since 1979/80, have slid all the way into the fourth division.

I have asked this question before, in these very pages, and it is timely to ask it again now: Have any two arch rivals ever experienced such a turnaround in fortunes in such a short space of time?

Not just in England, but anywhere in major world football?

I doubt it.

How Portsmouth got to the stage where they find themselves just two divisions above the likes of Eastleigh and Gosport Borough has been well chronicled, and there is no need for a history lesson here.

Challenge

No, the focus now is on Pompey's League 2 chances for the 2013/14 season which kicked off this weekend – the earliest start to a Football League season in history.

In the Press Association's guide to the new fourth tier season – printed in the Sports Pink this weekend – they were unequivocal in their assessment of Pompey's chances.

In short, Guy Whittingham's men would romp to the title.

I'm not so sure about that, but the new-look Pompey should certainly challenge for promotion.

It is stating the obvious to say a decent goalscorer can help you win promotion, but that was the case last season.

The league's 31-goal top scorer, Tom Pope, helped ex-Saint Micky Adams' Port Vale win automatic promotion.

And 18-goal pair Daniel Nardiello (Rotherham) and Nahki Wells (Bradford City)

also celebrated promotion.

The division's second top scorer, 21-goal veteran Jamie Cureton, would have ended up in the play-offs had Exeter not ended the season with one point out of 21 to just miss out on a top seven spot.

Do Pompey possess such a prolific marksman of their own?

Ex-Saint David Connolly netted seven times in 17 League 1 appearances last season



NEW CHALLENGE: James Beattie.

ances last season

ers who appeared for Pompey in the third tier last term, only Izale Mcleod netted more goals (10) – and he had left to join MK Dons by the time Connolly arrived. Connolly's career goals record – 122 league

not always an easy thing for the Republic of Ireland international to achieve during his three seasons at St Mary's.

Elsewhere, Pompey have signed former Oxford United striker Tom Craddock and Barnet winger Ricky Holmes, two proven League 2 performers.

In signing Swindon midfielder Simon Ferry and Scunthorpe winger Andy Barcham, Whittingham has also added players with a third tier pedigree as well.

Pompey are obviously not going to have things all their own way in the

a f t e r b e i n g recruited as a free agent in the January transfer window.

Of the 46 play-

strikes – deserves praise and even at 36 I expect him to be a regular scorer in the fourth tier if he keeps fit. Saints fans will remember that was

Club by club guide to League 2 clubs ... Club by club guide to League 2 clubs ...

ACCRINGTON

Manager: James Beattie
Position last season: 18th
Nickname: Stanley
Ground: The Crown Ground
Capacity: 5,057
Players in: Nicky Hunt (Rotherham, free), Shay McCartan (Burnley, free), Rob Atkinson, (Fleetwood, free), Josh Widdow (Huddersfield, free), Danny Webber (Unattached), Michael Richardson (Newcastle, Loan)
Players out: Charlie Barnett, Bohan Dixon, Tom Eckersley (all released),

Craig Lindfield (Chester, free), Amine Linganzi (Gillingham, free), Lee Molyneux (Crewe, free), Rommy Boco (Plymouth, free), Aiden Chippendale (Bury, free), Padraig Amond (Morecambe, free), Piero Mingoia (Unattached)
Key man: Ian Dunbavin
Chances: James Beattie looks set to endure a real baptism of fire in his first managerial role. The departure of two key players in Lee Molyneux and Rommy Boco will not help his cause.

AFC WIMBLEDON

Manager: Neal Ardley
Position last season: 20th
Nickname: The Dons
Ground: Kingsmeadow (4,720)
Players in: Chris Arthur (Havant & Waterlooville, free), Barry Fuller (Barnet, free), Ross Wornor (Aldershot, free), Charlie Sheringham (Bournemouth, free), George Franchom (Norwich, free), Callum Kennedy (Scunthorpe, free), George Porter (Burnley, loan), Andy Frampton (Gillingham, free), Michael Smith (Charlton, loan)
Players out: Mat Mitchell-King, Rashid Yussuf, Pim Balkestein, Stacy Long,

Curtis Osano, Jason Prior, Louis Harris, Kelly Youga, Huw Johnson, Mikhael Jaimez-Ruiz (all released), Chris Hussey (Burton, free)
Key man: Jack Midson
Chances: Neal Ardley has revamped his squad following last season's relegation battle but unless he can get them together quickly another struggle will be on the cards.

BRISTOL ROVERS

Manager: John Ward
Position last season: 14th

Nickname: The Pirates
Ground: Memorial Stadium
Capacity: 12,100
Players in: Steve Mildenhall, (Millwall, free), John-Joe O'Toole (Colchester, undisclosed)
Players out: Joe Anyinsah, Scott Bevan, Adam Virgo, Ross Staley, Connor Finn, Sam Kamara and Oumare Tounkara (all released)
Key man: John-Joe O'Toole
Chances: John Ward's sensational recovery job means the Pirates are promotion dark horses with the likes of Ollie Norburn, Ryan Brunt and highly-

2013/14 ... LEAGUE 2 PREVIEW 2013/14

HOW QUICKLY
TIMES
CAN
CHANGE!

PROVEN MARKSMAN:
David Connolly scores for
Saints against Leeds on the
opening day of 2011/12

coming months, though.

Last season's beaten play-off clubs Cheltenham, Burton and Northampton will all be champing at the bit to go one better.

Cheltenham finished in the top seven last term despite not having a single player hit double figures in terms of goals.

They will be hoping the free transfer signing of veteran Cureton will help them jump into the automatic promotion zone.

Burton Albion were a surprise package last season, reaching the play offs for the first time under Gary Rowett.

Not only have they signed ex-Saint Rory Delap to play at left back, but they have also brought in Torquay's 16-goal top scorer Rene Howe to provide extra potency up front.

Due to the fact Ady Boothroyd is their manager, expect Northampton to be competitive again.

But Boothroyd – who once led Watford into the Premier League – must do without last season's 17-goal leading marksman, Adebayo Akinfenwa, who has joined Gillingham.

And another striker, Clive Platt, will miss the first few weeks of the new season with injury.

I expect Oxford United to challenge more strongly this season, and their capture of ex-Pompey and Stoke striker Dave Kitson could be inspired.

Now 33, Kitson has scored over 120 league goals in his career, netting 11 times for Sheffield United in League 1 last term.

Down in east Devon, ex-Saints midfielder Paul Tisdale is now the second longest serving manager in the top four divisions behind Arsene Wenger.

Appointed in the summer of 2006, when Exeter were in the Conference, Tisdale this weekend

started his eighth season in charge at the Grecians.

He has lost Cureton's goals, and signed ex-Swindon man Sam Parkin – three goals in 32 games for St Mirren last term – as a replacement.

Still at Exeter, having signed a new one-year contract recently, is ex-Saints favourite Matt Oakley. Now 35, the midfielder is key to the Devonians enjoying a good season.

"He brings seniority and understanding of the game as we prefer to play it," said Tisdale.

"It keeps continuity and a rationale through our philosophy, and he matches it – he wouldn't fit every club and not every player suits us, but Matt suits our club."

As well as Oakley, Tisdale will be hoping one-time Glasgow Rangers playmaker Alan Gow can stay clear of injury.

If he can, hopefully Exeter – my club, so I'm obviously biased – can at least make up for last season's dismal finish by claiming a top seven place.

Hope springs eternal, after all.

It has to, otherwise we might as well give up.

Hope is what has kept Pompey's supporters going in recent years. A few years ago they probably never imagined having to go to places like Fleetwood and Accrington.

That was the case with Saints in 2009, and they came to terms with the third tier fairly quickly.

Guy Whittingham seems to have assembled a decent-enough squad, given the challenges which lie ahead, and the Fratton Park fanbase could be expecting promotion.

They could well end up celebrating it.

Work cut out

At the other end of the table, ex-Saints striker Beattie was taking charge of Accrington Stanley for the first time in a competitive game this weekend.

Beattie was the surprise choice as new boss in the summer, but had played for the club for most of last season so was no stranger.

With one of the smallest budgets in the Football League, and with Accrington attracting some of the smallest crowds, Beattie has his work cut out to keep Stanley out of the drop zone.

Fair play to Beattie for taking on the challenge.

Not every former England striker would be up for a taste of fourth tier management, and no-one can assume Beattie of doing it for the money.

I hope he succeeds, but almost certainly there will be tough months ahead.

Next weekend he can expect a nice welcome from Stanley's visitors – Portsmouth!

And Beattie will come across several familiar faces this season, including former Saints colleagues Delap and Oakley.

experienced faces, including former captain Alan McCormack, the Robins faithful will be cheering on a far more fresh-faced side this season under new management and they would certainly accept a second successive play-off appearance.

TRANMERE

Manager: Ronnie Moore

Position last season: 11th

Nickname: Rovers

Ground: Prenton Park

Capacity: 16,567

Players in: Stephen Foster (Barnsley, free), Evan Horwood (Hartlepool, free), Ryan Lowe (MK Dons, free), Akpo Sodje (Scunthorpe, free), Chris Atkinson (Huddersfield, loan), James Rowe (Forest Green, free)

Players out: Paul Black (Mansfield, free), Danny Harrison (Chester FC, free), David Amoo, (Carlisle, free), Michael Kay (Chester FC, free), Zoumana Bakayogo (Leicester, free), Adam McGurk (released)

Key man: James Wallace

Chances: Tranmere flew out of the blocks last year but Ronnie Moore's small squad struggled to maintain that form as they drifted down into mid-table. Look for Rovers to occupy a similar spot come the end of this term.



KEY MAN: Wolves
striker Leigh Griffiths.

WALSALL

Manager: Dean Smith

Position last season: 9th

Nickname: The Saddlers

Ground: Banks's Stadium

Capacity: 11,300

Players in: Milan Lalkovic, (Chelsea, six-month loan) Troy Hewitt, (QPR, free), Richard O'Donnell (Chesterfield, free), Romaine Sawyers (West Brom, free)

Players out: George Bowerman, Richard Taundry, Aaron Williams, Connor Taylor, Jake Jones (all released), Febian Brandy (Sheffield United, free), Will Grigg (Brentford, compensation), Jamie Paterson (Nottingham Forest, undisclosed)

Key man: Milan Lalkovic

Chances: The Saddlers have lost 40 of their 71 goals scored last term with the departures of Will Grigg, Jamie Paterson and Febian Brandy, they are lacking goals but will be hoping for another top-half finish.

WOLVES

Manager: Kenny Jackett

Position last season: 23rd in

Championship

Nickname: Wolves

Ground: Molineux

Capacity: 31,700

Players in: Sam Ricketts (Bolton, free)

Players out: Sylvan Ebanks-Blake, Stephen Hunt (both released), Christophe Berra (Ipswich, free), Jody Craddock (retired), Dorus De Vries (Nottingham Forest, free), Karl Henry (QPR, undisclosed), Johnny Gorman (Leyton Orient, free), Sam Winnall (Scunthorpe, free)

Key man: Leigh Griffiths

Chances: In the third tier for the first time since 1989 after back-to-back relegations, Wolves, under experienced boss Kenny Jackett, are the bookies' favourites to win the League One title.

Club by club guide to League 2 clubs ... Club by club guide to League 2 clubs ...

rated wingers Ellis Harrison and Shaquille Hunter on board. Will hope the injury nightmares of 2012/13 are behind them.

BURTON

Manager: Gary Rowett

Position last season: 4th

Nickname: The Brewers

Ground: Pirelli Stadium

Capacity: 6,912

Players in: Adam Reed (Sunderland, free), Alex MacDonald (Burnley, free), Dominic Knowles, (Harrogate Town,

undisclosed), Chris Hussey (AFC Wimbledon, free), Michael Symes (Leyton Orient, free), Ian Sharps (Rotherham, free), Phil Edwards (Rochdale, free), Rene Howe (Torquay, free), Rory Delap (Stoke, free)

Players out: John McGrath, Aaron Webster, Nathan Stanton, Ade Yussuf, Evan Garnett, Jack Green (all released), Andy Corbett (retired), Jacques Maghoma (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Calvin Zola (Aberdeen, free), Devam Green (Blackburn, undisclosed), Stuart Tomlinson (retired)

Key man: Rene Howe

Chances: Having thrown away a play-off semi-final lead before losing key duo Calvin Zola and Jacques Maghoma things were looking far from rosey. But the signing of a proven goalscorer at this level in Rene Howe and the addition of the experienced Rory Delap means they will be challenging once more.

BURY

Manager: Kevin Blackwell

Position last season: 22nd, League 1

Nickname: The Shakers

Ground: Gigg Lane (11,840)

Players in: Gareth Roberts (Derby, free), Ashley Grimes (Rochdale, free), Evan Holden (unattached), Greg McDermott (Newcastle, free), Nathan Cameron (Coventry, free), Andy Procter (Preston, free), Tom Soares (unattached), Rob Lainton (Bolton, free), Richard Hinds (Yeovil, free), Anton Forrester (Blackburn, loan), Aiden Chippendale (Accrington, free), Reice Charles-Cook (Arsenal, free), Chris Sedgwick (Hyde, free), Marlon Jackson (Hereford, free), Shaun Beeley (Fleetwood, loan)

Players out: David Worrall (Rotherham, undisclosed), Steven Schumacher (Fleetwood, undisclosed), Joe Skarz (Rotherham, free), Efe Sodje, David Healy, Mark Carrington, Mark Hughes, (Morecambe, free) Carl Regan, Cameron Belford, Craig Fagan, Valery Mezague, Max Harrop, Jordan Melia, Dalton McLaughlin (all released), Christian Dibble (Barnsley, free), Marcus Marshall (Morecambe, free)

Key man: Ashley Grimes

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From page 31

Chances: Having undergone a massive overhaul, the speed at which Kevin Blackwell can knit together a new-look side will dictate whether the Shakers bounce back to League One.

CHEL TENHAM

Manager: Mark Yates

Position last season: 5th

Nickname: The Robins

Ground: Whaddon Road (Capacity: 7,066)
Players in: Jamie Cureton, (Exeter, free), Troy Brown, (Aldershot, free), Matt Richards, (Shrewsbury, free), Ashley Vincent, (Port Vale, free), Terry Gornell, (Rochdale, free), Craig Braham-Barrett (Macclesfield, six-month loan)
Players out: Kaid Mohamed (Port Vale, free), Harry Hooman, (Inverness) Darren Carter (Northampton, free), Bagasan Graham (released)

Key man: Steve Elliott

Chances: The Robins' tally of just two goals in their last six games hampered hopes of a Wembley return but the arrival of Jamie Cureton, who netted 21 times last season, looks like resolving that issue. Expect a promotion challenge once again.

CHESTERFIELD

Manager: Paul Cook

Position last season: 8th

Nickname: The Spireites

Ground: Proact Stadium (Capacity: 10,600)
Players in: Gary Roberts, (Swindon, free), Aaron Chapman (Belper Town, undisclosed), Eoin Doyle (Hibernian, free), Jimmy Ryan (Scunthorpe, free), Sam Morsy (Port Vale, undisclosed compensation fee), Ritchie Humphreys (Hartlepool, free), Matty Brown (Marine, free), Jamie Devitt (Hull, free), Ryan Edwards (Blackburn, loan), Ian Evatt (Blackpool, free)

Players out: Neal Trotman, Danny Whitaker, Craig Clay, Jack Waddle, Scott Boden, Jonathan Wafula, Richard O'Donnell (Walsall, free) and Mark Randall (released), Scott Boden (Macclesfield, free)

Key man: Gary Roberts

Chances: Many people's dark horses after a strong finish to 2012/13, the Spireites will certainly compete if marquee signing Gary Roberts can find the form he showed during his Huddersfield days.

DAGENHAM

Manager: Wayne Burnett

Position last season: 22nd

Nickname: The Daggers

Ground: Victoria Road (Capacity: 6,078)
Players in: Afolabi Obafemi (Leyton Orient, free), Brian Saah (Torquay, free), Rhys Murphy (SC Telstar, free)

Players out: Dominic Green, Sam Williams, Kevin Maher, Andy Burns, Duran Reynolds, Tom Davie, Ben Strevens and Jonathan Fortune (all released)

Key man: Luke Howell

Chances: The Daggers avoided relegation by the skin of their teeth last term and, following a summer of few new additions, another season of struggle beckons.

EXETER

Manager: Paul Tisdale

Position last season: 10th

Nickname: The Grecians

Ground: St James Park (Capacity: 8,541)

Players in: Doug Bergqvist, (Aldershot, free), Sam Parkin (St Mirren, free)

Players out: Jamie Cureton, (Cheltenham, free), Elliott Frear, (Salisbury, free), Guillem Bauza, Steve Tully, Rhys Evans, Kevin Amankwaah (Northampton, free), Mark Molesley (all released)

Key man: Alan Gow

Chances: If talismanic playmaker Alan Gow and home-grown midfielder Liam Sercombe can overcome the injuries which blighted the second half of last season then this experienced squad will be pushing for a play-off place.

FLEETWOOD

Manager: Graham Alexander

Position last season: 13th

Nickname: The Cod Army

Ground: Highbury Stadium (Capacity: 5,094)

Players in: Steven Schumacher (Bury, undisclosed), Liam Hogan (Halifax, free), Matty Blair (York, free), Stewart Murdoch (Falkirk, free), Jeff Hughes (Notts County, free), Antoni Sarcevic (Chester, undisclosed), Mark Roberts (Stevenage, free), Stephen Jordan (Dunfermline, free), Ryan Cresswell (Southend, undisclosed)

Players out: Richie Allen, Rob Atkinson (Accrington, free), Anthony Barry, Kieran Charnock, Mozes Gyorio, Jean-Michel Fontaine, Andy Mangan (Forest Green, free),



FLASHBACK: Rory Delap, pictured right after scoring for Saints at Arsenal in 2004, will be appearing at another Highbury in 2013/14 – this time Fleetwood's ground, after signing for Burton Albion.



KEY MEN: Ex-Pompey striker Dave Kitson has signed for Oxford while Gary Roberts, above, is on board at Chesterfield.

Jamie McGuire, Jamie Milligan, Barry Nicholson, Danny Rowe, Liam Wynn (all released), Youl Mawene (retired), Chris Maxwell (Cambridge, loan)

Key man: Jeff Hughes
Chances: A string of early experienced signings, including Steven Schumacher and Mark Roberts, means Alexander's first full season in management should see the Cod Army comfortably top last season's finish.

HARTLEPOOL

Manager: Colin Cooper

Position last season: 23rd in League One

Nickname: Pools

Ground: Victoria Park (Capacity: 7,857)

Players in: Jack Compton (Colchester, free), Nialle Rodney (Unattached)

Players out: Evan Horwood (Tranmere, free), Nathan Buddle, Paul Johnson (Celtic Nation, free), Nathan Luscombe, Adam McHugh, Colin Nish, Ritchie Humphreys (Chesterfield, free)

Key man: Luke James

Chances: Some promising young players at Victoria Park ensure it is not all doom and gloom following relegation. If they get the right blend of youth and

experience, Colin Cooper and assistant Craig Hignett could mark their first full season in charge with a promotion challenge.

MANSFIELD

Manager: Paul Cox

Position last season: 1st in Blue Square Bet Premier

Nickname: The Stags

Ground: One Call Stadium (Capacity: 9,186)

Players in: Jamie McGuire (Fleetwood, free), Paul Black (Tranmere, free), Keiran Murtagh (Macclesfield, free), John McCombe (Port Vale, free), Martin Riley (Wrexham, free), Sam Clucas (Hereford, undisclosed)

Players out: Luke Jones (Stevenage, free), Exodus Geohagbon (released), Matt Green (Birmingham, free), Andy Todd (released)

Key man: Sam Clucas

Chances: The loss of 25-goal striker Matt Green to the Championship would be a blow to any side and although Sean Clucas and John McCombe are quality additions for this level it remains to be seen whether the lack of firepower sees the Stags drawn into a relegation battle.

MORECAMBE



Manager: Jim Bentley

Position last season: 16th

Nickname: The Shrimps

Ground: Globe Arena (Capacity: 6,476)

Players in: Tony Diagne (Macclesfield, undisclosed), Will Bell (youth), Marcus Marshall (Bury, free), Jack Sampson (Bolton, free), Mark Hughes (Bury, free), Alex Kenyon (Stockport, free), Pdraig Amond (Accrington, free)

Players out: Will Haining, Dan Parkinson, James Short, Gary McDonald, Nick Fenton (all released), Jordan Burrow, (Stevenage, free), Lewis Alessandra (Plymouth, free)

Key man: Kevin Ellison

Chances: With departures of a string of regulars, a long-term injury to striker Jack Redshaw and an average crowd that has dipped below 2000 it looks to be a season of struggle for Jim Bentley's men.

NEWPORT

Manager: Justin Edinburgh

Position last season: 3rd in Blue Square Premier

Nickname: The Exiles

Ground: Rodney Parade (Capacity: 5,511)

Players in: Harry Worley (Oxford, free), Chris Zebroski (unattached), Adam Chapman.

(Oxford, free)

Players out: Will Evans, Joe Parry, Jake Harris and Michael Boateng, (all released)

Key man: Aaron O'Connor

Chances: The likes of Byron Anthony, ex-Eastleigh striker Chris Zebroski, Lenny Pidgeley and Ismail Yakubu are certainly no strangers to this level and they know Newport's form at Rodney Parade will be crucial. Expect this confident and settled squad, fresh from a Wembley win, to clinch survival.

NORTHAMPTON

Manager: Aidy Boothroyd

Position last season: 6th

Nickname: The Cobblers

Ground: Sixfields (Capacity: 7,653)

Players in: Matt Duke (Bradford, free), Ian Morris (Torquay, free), Darren Carter (Cheltenham, free), Kevin Amankwaah (Northampton, free), Gary Deegan (Hibernian, free), Matt Heath (Colchester, free), Danny Emerton (Hull, free)

Players out: Adebayo Akinfenwa (Gillingham, free), John Johnson, Louis Moutt, Jake Robinson, Lewis Wilson, Paul Turnbull, Seth Nana Twumasi, Luke Guttridge (all released), Clarke Carlisle (retired), Ben Harding (Torquay,

League 2 preview 2013/14 ... League 2 preview 2013/14 ...



STILL GOING STRONG: Ex-Saint Matt Oakley, seen here scoring against Millwall in the FA Cup a decade ago, has signed a new one-year contract at League 2 club Exeter City.



NEW CHALLENGE: Ex-Saint Ollie Lancashire has signed for Rochdale while Chris Zebroski, above right, is now at Newport.

free)
Key man: Chris Hackett
Chances: Failed to produce their best in last season's play-off final at Wembley, will be desperate to avenge that disappointment this time around and will be competing among the promotion contenders once more.

OXFORD

Manager: Chris Wilder
Position last season: 9th
Nickname: The U's
Ground: Kassam Stadium (Capacity: 12,500)
Players in: Jonathan Meades (Bournemouth), David Hunt (Crawley, free), Danny Rose (Fleetwood, free), Josh Shama (Reading, free), Dave Kitson (Sheffield United, free), Asa Hall (Shrewsbury, six-month loan), Tom Newey (Scunthorpe, free), Johnny Mullins (Rotherham, undisclosed), Josh Ruffels (Coventry, free)
Players out: Luke McCormick (Plymouth, free), Damian Batt, Michael Duberry, Harry Worley (Newport, free), Liam Davis, Tony Capaldi, Adam Chapman, (Newport) Simon Heslop, Peter Leven, Josh Parker, Tom Craddock (Portsmouth, free), Jon-Paul Pittman (Wycombe, free), Justin Richards. (Tamworth), Liam Davis (Yeovil, free)

PLYMOUTH

Manager: John Sheridan
Position last season: 21st
Nickname: The Pilgrims
Ground: Home Park (Capacity: 16,388)
Players in: Luke McCormick (Oxford, free), Lewis Alessandra (Morecambe, free), Marvin Morgan (Shrewsbury, free), Reuben Reid (Yeovil, loan), Dominic Blizzard (Yeovil, free), Rommy Boco (Accrington, free), Andre Blackman (Celtic, free)
Players out: Warren Feeney (Salisbury, free), Anthony Charles, Ollie Chenoweth, Jamie Lowry, Jared Sims, Rene Gilmartin (all released), Paris Cowan-Hall (Wycombe, free)
Key man: Conor Hourihane
Chances: Argyle kept their fans sweating right until the final day before retaining their Football League status but their first pre-season under John Sheridan and some experienced acqui-



tions means they are unlikely to flirt with non-league football quite so regularly in 2013/14.

PORTSMOUTH

Manager: Guy Whittingham
Position last season: 24th in League One
Nickname: Pompey
Ground: Fratton Park (Capacity: 20,700)
Players in: Patrick Agyemang (Stevenage, free), Sonny Bradley (Hull, free), Danny East (Hull, free), Romain Padovani (Monaco, free), Tom Craddock (Oxford, free), Joe Devera (Swindon, free), John Sullivan (Charlton, free), Andy Barcham (Scunthorpe, free), Ricky Holmes (Barnet, free), Ryan Bird (Burnham, free), Simon Ferry (Swindon, free)
Players out: Alex Grant, Gabor Gyepes (both released), Simon Eastwood (Blackburn, free)
Key man: Patrick Agyemang
Chances: Finally free of the cash problems which have seen them tumble down the divisions and almost put them out of business, Pompey should carter to the title without breaking into a sweat.

ROCHDALE

Manager: Keith Hill
Position last season: 12th
Nickname: Dale
Ground: Spotland (Capacity: 10,249)
Players in: Joe Bunney (Northwich Victoria, free), Bastien Hery (Sheffield Wednesday, free), Scott Hogan (Hyde, free), Peter Vincenti (Aldershot, free), Ollie Lancashire (Aldershot, free), Ashley Eastham (Blackpool, free), Matty Lund, (Stoke, free) Jack O'Connell (Blackburn, six-month loan), Robbie Thomson (Celtic, free), Javan Vidal (Stockport, free)
Players out: Dele Adebola, Neill Byrne, Terry Gornell, Ritchie Jones, Kevin McIntyre, Matt Pearson, Sam Minihan, Matty Edwards, Luke Watson (all released), Ashley Grimes (Bury, free), Phil Edwards (Burton, free), Andy Haworth (Notts County, free), Jason Kennedy (Bradford, free)
Key man: Bastien Hery
Chances: Keith Hill has made wholesale changes during the close-season and much will depend on how quickly he can get his players together, but some decent signings should see Dale in and around the play-offs.

SCUNTHORPE

Manager: Brian Laws

Position last season: 21st in League One
Nickname: The Iron
Ground: Glanford Park (Capacity: 9,088)
Players in: Andy Dawson (Hull, free), Chris Iwelumo (Watford, free), Andy Welsh (Carlisle, free), Etienne Esajas (free), Matthew Sparrow, (Brighton, free), Dean Burton (Gillingham, free), Sean McAllister (Cowdenbeath, free), Sam Winnall (Wolves, free)
Players out: Paul Reid, Josh Walker, Damien Mozika, Robbie Gibbons, Mike Grella (all released), Andy Barcham (Portsmouth, free), Jimmy Ryan (Chesterfield, free), Tom Newey (Oxford, free), Callum Kennedy (AFC Wimbledon, free), Mark Duffy (Doncaster, undisclosed), Akpo Sodje (Tranmere, free), Karl Hawley (Torquay, free)
Key man: Michael Collins
Chances: Plenty of players left Glanford Park in the summer, but with some proven quality additions to his squad, Brian Laws will be expecting to launch a concerted bid for promotion.

SOUTHEND

Manager: Phil Brown
Position last season: 11th
Nickname: The Shrimpers
Ground: Roots Hall (Capacity: 12,392)
Players in: John White (Colchester, free), Will Atkinson (Bradford, free), Ben Coker (unattached, free), Craig Reid (Aldershot, free)
Players out: Bilel Mohsni, Mickey Spillane, John Spicer, Alex Woodyard, (all released), Neil Harris (retired), Gavin Tomlin (Port Vale, free), Elliot Benyon (Torquay, free), Ryan Cresswell (Fleetwood, undisclosed)
Key man: Kevan Hurst
Chances: The Shrimpers have been consistent play-off challengers in recent seasons and boss Phil Brown, who did not enjoy a winning conclusion to last season, will be hoping for more of the same in his first full campaign in charge.

TORQUAY

Manager: Alan Knill
Position last season: 19th
Nickname: The Gulls
Ground: Plainmoor (Capacity: 6,104)
Players in: Elliot Benyon (Southend, free), Dale Tonge (Rotherham, free), Courtney Cameron (Aston Villa, free), Jordan Chapell (Sheff Utd, free), Ben Harding (Northampton, free), Krystian Pearce (Notts County, free), Karl Hawley (Scunthorpe, free)
Players out: Ryan Jarvis (York) Joe Oastler, Danny Leadbitter, Danny Stevens, Lloyd Macklin, Saul Halpin, Karl Baker and Craig Easton (all released), Ian Morris (Northampton, free), Rene Howe, (Burton, free), Brian Saah (Dagenham, free)
Key man: Elliot Benyon
Chances: After a topsy-turvy campaign which saw three managers in the dugout, Alan Knill has begun putting his own stamp on the squad. Jordan Chapell in particular looks like a smart signing but Torquay's chances of being in the play-off mix rest heavily on Knill's ability to replace top scorer Rene Howe.

WYCOMBE

Manager: Gareth Ainsworth
Position last season: 15th
Nickname: The Chairboys
Ground: Adams Park (Capacity: 10,284)
Players in: Charlie Horlock (Stevenage), Nick Arnold (Reading, loan), Paris Cowan-Hall (Plymouth, free), Jon-Paul Pittman (Oxford, free), Tommy Fletcher (Cheshunt, free) Steven Craig (unattached, free)
Players out: Grant Basey, Dennis Oli, Ollie Taylor, Georges Ehui (all released), Joel Grant (Yeovil, free), Dave Winfield, (Shrewsbury, free)
Key man: Matt McClure
Chances: It could be a long season without captain Dave Winfield and winger Joel Grant.

YORK

Manager: Nigel Worthington
Position last season: 17th
Nickname: The Minstermen
Ground: Bootham Crescent (Capacity: 7,872)
Players in: Ryan Jarvis (Torquay, free), Craig Clay (Chesterfield, free), Ryan Bowman (Hereford, compensation), Sander Puri (St Mirren, free), Chris Kettings (Blackpool, loan), Wes Fletcher (Burnley, free), Lewis Montrose (Gillingham, free), Richard Cresswell (Sheff United, free), Ben Davies (Preston, loan)
Players out: David McDaid (Derry, free), Jamie Reed, Jason Walker, Scott Kerr, Ben Everson, Jon Challinor, Michael Potts, Chris Doig (Grimsby, free), Lee Bullock (all released), Paddy McLaughlin (Grimsby, free)
Key man: Sander Puri
Chances: Nigel Worthington has had a major clear-out and brought in seven new players this summer, including Estonia international Sander Puri, and the Minstermen are expected to make a better fist of their second season back in the Football League.

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Local Cricket Spotlight



Top two at Ventnor

VENTNOR pair Travis Head and Oli Mills are four runs apart in the race to be the ECB Southern Electric Premier League's leading batsman.

South Australia left-hander Head leads the charts with 648 runs – just four more than his Ventnor team-mate Oli Mills, last year's Winchester College captain.

Jordan Finney and Australian all-rounder Alex Keath remain leading wicket-takers, but Tom Morton is under pressure from Lewis McManus and teenager Tom Arnold in the wicket-keeping stakes.

Burridge cricketers lead the way in the Division 1 batting and bowling departments.

Australian pair Dan Payne (Sparsholt) and Jamie Eccles (Hursley Park) are the leading Division 2 run scorers.



TRAVIS HEAD

Leading players -

* denotes overseas player

Premier Division
Batting: * Travis Head (Ventnor) 648, Oli Mills (Ventnor) 644, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 573, Robert Gibson (Havant) 558, James Taylor (Totton & Eling) 558, Lewis McManus (Academy) 526.
Bowling: Jordan Finney (St Cross Symondians) 27, * Alex Keath (Bournemouth) 27, Matt Metcalfe (Lymington) 23, Rob Franklin (South Wilts) 23, Richard Logan (St Cross Symondians) 23.
Wicket-keeping: Tom Morton (South Wilts) 22, Lewis McManus (Academy) 20, Tom Arnold (Totton & Eling) 19.

Division 1

Batting: Shu Chowdhury (Burridge) 613, Derek Kenway (Burridge) 538, Scott Baldwin (HW) 493, Nick Park (New Milton) 473, Jamie Richards (L & R) 468, Ben Thane (HNB) 465, Ryan Covey (L & R) 459.
Bowling: * Geoff Dods (Burridge) 29, * Matt Willett (Rowledge) 23, Charles Janczur (L & R) 22, Ryan Covey (L & R) 21, Glen Williams (HNB) 20, George Watts (New Milton) 20.
Wicket-keeping: Tom Prodomo (New Milton) 22, Jamie Rood (Burridge) 21, Chris Martin (L & R) 19.

Division 2

Batting: * Dan Payne (Sparsholt) 637, * Jamie Eccles (Hursley Park) 573, Dan Coombs (BNH) 502, Stewart Magee (Paultons) 461, Azeem Hamid (Totton II) 426, Graham Noble (Langley Manor) 403.
Bowling: Matt Oliver (HP) 25, Mike West (Calmore Sports) 24, Matt Thankachan (BNH) 24, Dave Cox (US) 23, * Elijah Turfitt-Smith (Calmore Sports) 23, Dave Pistorius (BNH) 22, * Caleb Brookland (Langley Manor) 22.
Wicket-keeping: Lee Carroll (US) 23, Matt Branford (HP) 18, Lawrence Bengel (BNH) 16.

Division 3

Batting: Andy Galliers (Havant II) 457, Matt Benfield (P & S) 416, Tom Cowley (SW) 386, Robert Jones (Portsmouth) 369, Jamie Mitchell (Portsmouth) 369, Dave Henderson (Portsmouth) 364, Tom Pearce (South Wilts) 359.
Bowling: Vickram Dawson (Portsmouth) 33, Andy Mash (Fair Oak) 29, * Liam Duffield (Portsmouth) 29, Phil Loat (Havant II) 28, Steve Mitchell ST Cross Symondians) 27, Paul Draper (South Wilts) 26, Keith Harsham (BNH II) 24.
Wicket-keeping: Alex Hammond (Portsmouth) 15, Alex Bass (Fair Oak) 13, Sam Pittman (South Wilts II) 12, Nigel le Bas (Trojans) 11.

Bottom five face a survival battle

AS Basingstoke & North Hants and Hursley Park look to tie up the loose end of their respective promotion bids, so a frantic survival battle is developing at the foot of Southern Electric Premier Division 2.

The bottom five teams in the table, from Sparsholt down, are in danger of going down – with four matches left after today (Saturday).

Four of the bottom five went head-to-head this afternoon, with United Services hosting Totton & Eling II, and OTs & Romsey going to Sparsholt, writes MIKE VIMPANY.

A month ago, Tichborne Park and US looked near certainties to fill the two relegation spots.

But Tichborne have won three of their last five games and US their last two, tightening the screw on the teams above them.

Totton won three of their first five games, but have only been successful once in their last eight outings.

Basingstoke & North Hants, Calmore Sports and Hursley Park are the next three matches on the Totton & Eling card.

Tichborne Park are still fighting for their lives despite their recent wins.



DIVISION 2 TABLE						
	P	W	L	Bonus	Total	Ave
Basingstoke & NH	12	11	1	111	243	20.25
Hursley Park	13	11	2	111	243	18.69
* Calmore Sports	12	8	4	87	178	14.83
Langley Manor	12	7	5	91	175	14.58
* Paultons	13	6	7	100	167	12.85
Sparsholt	13	5	8	80	140	10.77
OTs & Romsey	12	4	8	81	129	10.75
Totton & Eling II	13	4	9	86	134	10.31
* United Services	13	4	9	87	130	10.00
Tichborne Park	13	3	10	81	117	9.00

TICHBORNE PARK: Standing (left-right): Doug Butler, Henry Don, Jake Bristow, Ed Berry, Will Gerrard, Hector Don. Seated: Jack Skinner, Martin Cheyney, Will Allam, Mick Butler, Ed Primmer.

the most recent a seven-wicket victory over Totton & Eling II, who have sunk deep into relegation territory themselves.

Tichborne are now only 17 points behind the nearest safety rung, but played title favourites Basingstoke &

North Hants today and visit Hursley Park next week.

"It will be a bonus to get anything from those games, but two of our last three games are against OTs & Romsey and United Services," said skipper Will Allam.

Tough draw

SOUTH WILTS appear to have drawn the short straw in next Sunday's ECB national t20 South play-offs at the HSBC ground in Beckenham's Copers Cope Road.

Their scant reward for winning the domestic Southern Electric Cup is a semi-final meet-up with Wimbledon, the reigning national 20/20 champions and winners of the Ryman Surrey Championship for the past two seasons.

Wimbledon's side includes Chris Benham, the former Hampshire batsman.

In the other semi-final, Blackheath face Horsham. The winners of the Beckenham play-offs will appear in the Sky Sports televised ECB t20 finals at the KIA Oval on September 13.

James's run glut

SOUTHERN Electric t20 Cup final hero James Hayward is the Premier League Cricketer of the Month for July.

It's his Premier Division runs that have sealed the prize – Hayward's 274-run aggregate, which included back-to-back hundreds, helping to put South Wilts back top of the league.

Big hitting Burridge batsman Shu Chowdhury is Division 1 PoM, having piled up 397 runs, including two centuries.

Doug Butler's consistent bowling – and 13 wickets – won the Division 2 award for the Tichborne Park seamer.

Hants Seniors' Keith Harsham is Div 3 PoM after two five-wicket returns for Basingstoke & North Hants II.

Wight might

RYDE'S Harry Collier (74) and Ventnor prospect Toby Corbin (68) led the way as the Isle of Wight enjoyed a 103-run success against Wiltshire in the ECB Under-17 County Championship at Newclose.

Jadon Buckeridge (41) gave support as the Island posted 314- before bowling Wiltshire out for 211.

Wiltshire reversed the result in the 50-over Cup.

ISLAND UNDER-17S: Standing (left-right): Kyle Blair, Ben Duggan, Toby Corbin, George Niemic, Matt Webb, Tom Stafford, Josh Proctor. Front: Ellis Ridett, Jadon Buckeridge, Stuart Robertson, Calvin Dickinson, Harry Collier.



Local Cricket Spotlight

Unbeaten pair in a title shoot-out

THE Hampshire League programme enters the home straight with lead pair Ellingham and Waterlooville locked on 229 points at the top and five clubs, all with three wins apiece, struggling at the bottom.

It's a simple, straightforward shoot-out for the County Division 1 crown between the unbeaten top two, who are virtually in an unassailable position, *writes MIKE VIMPANY.*

Every bonus points will count from now on as Ellingham pit their strengths against Midhurst today (Saturday), St Cross Symondians III, Alton II, Rowledge II and Ventnor II, all matches they will expect to win.

Waterlooville, meanwhile, visit Old Basing (today), before playing Hook & Newnham Basics II, Gosport Borough and Fareham & Crofton, and finishing at Locks Heath.

The pair were both marooned in mid-afternoon last weekend – Ellingham recovering from 104-5 (Matt Vail 44) against Shrewton, with Brett Spicer whacking 92 of his side's eventual 266-8. Waterlooville scored 223 against Lymington and then took two wickets, but it was all academic when the rain rolled in across Portsdown Hill.

A real relegation battleground is set for the final five weeks of the season, with as many as eight clubs likely to be involved.

Almost the entire bottom of the table, from Shrewton down, are fighting for their futures.

Easton & Martyr Worth sank to base position after being skittled for 40 and trounced by a massive 218 runs by Portchester, whose 22-year-old Australian import Andrew Webb had a game he'll remember for the rest of his days.

One of three Portchester half-century makers – Rich



MATT McNALLY: His 130 had a sad ending.

COUNTY DIVISION 1 TABLE

	P	W	L	Tot	Ave
Ellingham	10	10	0	229	22.90
Waterlooville	10	10	0	229	22.90
Alton II	8	6	2	152	19.00
* Locks Heath	10	6	4	161	16.10
Ventnor II	9	5	4	144	16.00
Portchester	11	7	4	175	15.91
Ryde	12	6	6	175	14.58
+ Hook & N Basics II	12	6	5	174	14.50
Lymington II	10	5	5	143	14.30
* Gosport Borough	10	5	5	142	14.20
Shrewton	10	4	6	127	12.70
St Cross Syms III	12	4	8	150	12.50
Fareham & Crofton	12	4	8	149	12.42
+ Rowledge II	10	3	6	118	11.80
Midhurst	11	3	8	124	11.27
* Old Basing	10	3	7	104	10.40
Purbrook	11	3	8	113	10.27
* Easton & Martyr W	10	3	7	93	9.30

including four wickets in four balls – as Easton were bundled out for 40 in just 12.5 overs.

"I managed to hoop it all over the place in the humid conditions and clean bowled

Locke (63) and Blake Barnwell (51) were the others – he struck with devastating accuracy with the ball.

Webb, pictured top right, took an astonishing 8-14 –

all three batsmen in the hat-trick – Steve Green among them – before Blake (Barnwell) got the last two wickets," beamed Webb, who keeps wicket for his club side Newcomb & District in Geelong. Webb has enjoyed a pretty successful season for Portchester, scoring over 350 runs and taking 25 league wickets.

Easton will do well to come back from a mauling like that, with their prospects of staying off a second consecutive relegation – they were demoted out of SPL3 last season – hinging on the outcome of today's visit to Shrewton and next week's home game with Midhurst.

Purbrook, who have propped up the table all sea-

son, shocked Ryde and probably ended the Islanders' prospects of a possible promotion third-place spot.

Purbrook had skipper Sean Figgins and James Iles banned following incidents in the Fareham & Crofton match on June 29.

But Australian Jack Cunningham (113) and Hampshire Under-15 prospect Josh McCoy, with 101 off 97 balls, laid the base for a total of 270, Purbrook's batting collapsing after their partnership.

Conditions deteriorated and Ryde needed to reach 152 off 28 overs, falling a boundary short at 149-5 when play was finally abandoned.

Purbrook's win wasn't good news for Fareham & Crofton, whose three-wicket defeat by St Cross Symondians III will have unsettled nerves in the Bath Lane camp. St Cross did their best to make life difficult for themselves, conceding the 'statutory' 50 extras, but Fareham's 193 simply wasn't enough.

Shaun Baker (39), who has top scored every time he has played, and Luke Gould (34) were the only Fareham players to make their mark as left-arm swinger Stephen Fryer took 4-25.

With the weather closing in, St Cross came out of the blocks quickly, with Hants Under-17 all-rounder Matt Howarth scoring a rapid 43.

James Burrige (38) and Brad Aldridge (37) effectively sealed Fareham's fate, although off-spinner Gary Wilde took 4-31 as the visitors' lost late wickets.

The only other game completed produced a remarkable boundary-strewn tie between Rowledge and Hook & Newnham Basics second teams.

Rowledge powered to 296-4 on the back of a 16-40 century by Chris Board and a run-a-ball 70 from skipper Ben Wish. But Hook hit back, Graham Buckingham (102) and Matt McNally (130) sharing a double century second-wicket stand.

The outcome predictably remained in the balance until the last over, with Hook needing six runs to win from Tim Wheatley's final fling.

McNally tied the score off the penultimate ball, but Wheatley clean bowled his man off the final delivery to leave Basics 296-3.

**ANDY WEBB
– took 8-14.**



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SkyBet Championship

Barnsley	0	Wigan	4
		Watson 37	
		Holt 55	
		Barnett 80	
		Maloney 88	
		Att 13,096	
HT 0-1			
Birmingham	0	Watford	1
		Deeney 11	
		Att 18,830	
CHERRIES	2	Charlton	0
Grabban 26,66		Kermorgant 49	
HT 1-0			
Burnley	1	Bolton	1
Wheatley 26 og		Prattley 37	
HT 1-1		Att 12,919	
Doncaster	1	Blackpool	3
Jones 60		Davies 17	
		MacKenzie 88	
		Ince 90	

HT 0-1			
Leeds Utd	2	Brighton	1
McCormack 19		Ulloa 13	
Murphy 90			
HT 1-1			

Middlesbro	1	Leicester	2
Jutkiewicz 35		Drinkwater 60	
		Vardy 67	

HT 1-0			
Millwall	0	Yeovil	1
		Upson 88	
		Att 12,404	

HT 0-0			
Nottm For	1	Huddersfld	0
Lansbury 53			

HT 0-0			
Q.P.R.	2	Sheff Wed	1
Onuoha 40		Nuhli 19	
Johnson 43			
HT 2-1			

Reading	2	Ipswich	1
Le Fondre 45		Tabb 16	
Guthrie 75			
HT 1-1			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Wigan	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	3
Blackpool	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	1	3
CHERRIES	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Leeds Utd	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Leicester	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	3
Q.P.R.	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Reading	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	3
Nottm For	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Watford	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	3
Yeovil	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	3
Bolton	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Burnley	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Blackburn	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Derby City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brighton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Charlton	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Ipswich	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Middlesbro	1	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0
Birmingham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huddersfld	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Millwall	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Doncaster	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Barnsley	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0

SkyBet League One

Bristol C	2	Bradford	2
Wagstaff 13		Wells 33	
Emmanuel-Thomas 58		McArdle 84	
HT 1-1		Att 13,862	

Carlisle	1	Leyton O	5
Amoo 43 pen		Lisbie 22	
		Cuthbert 37	
		Mooney 70	
		Cox 81,85	
		Att 4,951	

HT 1-2			
Crawley	3	Coventry	2
Proctor 13		Wilson 61	
Walsh 21		Moussa 82	
M Jones 84			
HT 2-0			

Crewe	3	Rotherham	3
Grant 3		Frecklington 10,90	
Clayton 9		Pringle 86	
Davis 48 pen			
HT 2-1			

Gillingham	0	Colchester	1
		Bond 89	
		Att 6,792	

HT 0-0			
Peterboro	1	Swindon	0
Assombalanga 9			
HT 1-0		Att 7,178	

Port Vale	1	Brentford	1
Loft 31		Logan 27	
HT 1-1			

Preston	0	Wolves	0

HT 0-0			
Shrewsbry	0	M K Dons	0
		Att 5,144	

Stevenage	3	Oldham	4
Charles 45		Tarkowski 51	
Tansley 77		Baxter 67,87 pen	
Morais 84		Montano 70	
HT 1-0			

Walsall	3	Tranmere	1
Westcarr 4,71		Robinson 40	
Lalkovic 25			
HT 2-1			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Leyton O	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	3
Walsall	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Oldham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	3	3
Crawley	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Sheff Utd	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Colchester	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Peterboro	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Crewe	1	0	1	0	3	3	0	1	0	0	0	1
Rotherham	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	1	1
Bradford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	1
Bristol C	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Brentford	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Port Vale	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
M K Dons	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Preston	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Shrewsbry	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wolves	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Stevenage	1	0	0	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Notts Cnty	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0
Gillingham	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swindon	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Tranmere	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0
Carlisle	1	0	0	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coventry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	10	3

SkyBet League Two

Bury	0	Chesterfld	2
		O'Shea 50	
		Richards 66	

HT 0-0			
Cheltenham	2	Burton Albion	2
Cureton 18		Kee 45 pen	
Harrison 32		Delap 56	

HT 2-1			
Exeter	2	Bristol R	1
Coles 59		Richards 68	
Parkin 79			
HT 0-0			

Fleetwood Town	3	Dagenham	1
Roberts 6		Murphy 26	
Hughes 10			
Cresswell 56			
HT 2-1			

Newport County	4	Acc Stanley	1
Worley 24		Webber 68	
Zebroski 43,66			
Jolley 55			
HT 2-0			

POMPEY	1	Oxford Utd	4
Agyemang 25		Smalley 34,72	
		Potter 38,64	
		Att 18,181	

HT 1-2			
Rochdale	3	Hartlepool	0
Hogan 14, Donnelly 50			
Henderson 58			
HT 1-0			

Scunthorpe	2	Mansfield	0
Sparrow 30			
Winnall 41			

HT 2-0			
Southend	1	Plymouth	0
Corr 15			
HT 1-0			

Torquay	1	AFC Wimbledon	1
Downes 90		Pell 88	
HT 0-0			

Wycombe	1	Morecambe	0
Cowan-Hall 7			
HT 1-0			

York	1	Northmptn	0
Jarvis 90			
HT 0-0			

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt
Newport Co	1	1	0	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Oxford Utd	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4	1	3	3
Rochdale	1	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Fleetwood Tn	1	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Chesterfld	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	3	3
Scunthorpe	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Exeter	1	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
Southend	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Wycombe	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
York	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Burton Albion	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2	1	1
Cheltenham	1	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	1
Wimbledon	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	1
Torquay	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bristol R	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	1
Morecambe	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
Northmptn	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Plymouth	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0
Dagenham	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
Bury	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mansfield	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0
Acc Stanley	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0
POMPEY	1	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hartlepool	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	0	0

Scottish Premiership

Aberdeen	2	Kilmarnock	1
Hayes 21		Boyd 64	
Flood 54			
HT 1-0			

Celtic	L	Ross Cnty	L
		Maatsen 3	

HT L-L
